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Near East & South Asia

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LD201304 [Editorial Report]

Gulf Conflict

Iranian Reaction to U.S. Attack—Iran will "certainly retaliate and will not leave this U.S. action unanswered," President 'Ali Khamene'i warned in an interview reported by Tehran radio. President Reagan has made a "big mistake and has certainly added to his problems," Khamene'i contended. Denying Reagan's assertion that the U.S. attack targeted an Iranian military platform, Khamene'i said there were no military personnel and facilities on the "Reshadat" oil platform, which was shelled and destroyed by the U.S. Navy. In another reaction, Iran's Foreign Ministry announced in a statement broadcast by the radio that the Islamic Republic will give an "appropriate and decisive" response to the U.S. attack "at the proper time." War Information Headquarters chief Kamal Kharrazi asserted that the attack places the United States "in a full-fledged war" with Iran, IRNA reported, and he added that the Americans have entered a "swamp" from which they will be unable to extricate themselves.

Regarding the number and location of oil platforms hit by the U.S. Navy, an Oil Ministry source cited by IRNA clarified that the attack targeted two oil platforms in "Reshadat" oil field, formerly known as Rakhsh. The source dismissed earlier Iranian reports that the U.S. Navy had also attacked "Resalat" oil field, formerly called Rostam. Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh announced 20 October that the two platforms were still on fire, and he said the attack inflicted damage estimated at over dls 500 million, according to IRNA. He also affirmed that a number of oil workers were wounded, two of whom are in "critical" condition.

Other Reaction—A Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by KUNA viewed the "limited" U.S. military action as a response to Iran's continued "hostile" actions against shipping. Emphasizing Kuwait's concern over the growing tension in the Gulf, the spokesman urged the UN Security Council to intensify efforts to defuse the crisis and to show "firmness and seriousness" in securing the implementation of Resolution 598. The Jordanian paper *Sawt al-Sha'b* likewise viewed the latest "dramatic developments" in the Gulf as an indication of the urgent need to implement Resolution 598.

Syria's *Al-Ba'th* denounced the U.S. "aggression" against Iran in an editorial reviewed by Damascus radio, asserting that the United States has thereby clearly demonstrated its participation in the Iraqi regime's "unjust war." Claiming that the incident "proves the soundness" of Syria's stand on the Gulf war, *Al-Ba'th* criticized "some Arabs" who are "deceived" and "ignore the true nature of the U.S. game." In Libya, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi expressed solidarity with Iran in confronting the "imperialist attack" by U.S. forces, according to Tripoli television. An Algerian spokesman cited by Algiers radio said his country "regrets" both the recent attack in Kuwaiti territorial waters and the U.S. action against Iranian oil installations, adding that acts like this are impeding efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war. For the Soviet Union's part, a TASS commentator described the U.S. move against Iran as "armed aggression."

Threat to Hostages—A "ranking Lebanese source" cited by the Paris paper *Al-Mustaqbal* 17 October said one of the U.S. hostages being held in Beirut "may soon" be killed as an indirect reply to the recent U.S. sinking of Iranian gunboats in the Gulf. The source added that the hostages may be killed "one after another" if Western military pressure on Iran intensifies.

Iranian Premier's Syria Visit

Damascus radio reported that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad received Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi and other members of his delegation, including IRGC Minister Mohsen Rafiqdust and Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati. Musavi also met with "prominent Lebanese and Palestinian personalities" in Damascus, Tehran radio noted, and he told them Iran will give an "appropriate response" to the U.S. "aggression" in the Gulf. In a meeting with PNSF leaders, Musavi affirmed Iran's support for the Palestinian revolution represented by the PNSF, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

PLO-Syria

Faruq Qaddumi said the PLO is striving to restore "normal ties" with Syria, KUNA reported, citing a press interview. The head of the PLO Political Department added that Syria should be more forthcoming in order to achieve reconciliation.

Meanwhile, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported that PLO-Syrian talks are currently under way in Cyprus. The radio cited sources as saying that the two delegations are led by intelligence service officials.

Shultz Tour

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak discussed efforts toward convening an international conference on the Middle East as well as preventing escalation in the Gulf conflict, MENA reported. Shultz subsequently departed for London to meet with King Husayn of Jordan, who is currently visiting there.

As for Shultz' talks in Israel, IDF radio announced that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has given Shultz a "mandate" to explore the "new formula" Shultz presented on direct Israeli-Arab negotiations under "limited" U.S. and Soviet auspices. This formula, the radio continued, gives the Soviet Union "a certain, nonactive role" in the political process. However, in a report

carried by Radio Monte Carlo, the Jordanian information minister said: "Jordan rejects proposals to replace the international peace conference on the Middle East with another framework for negotiations."

Afghanistan

Factionalism within the PDPA has become a "negative factor" in implementing the policy of national reconciliation, party and state leader Najib asserted in a speech broadcast by Kabul radio 18 October. He told the PDPA conference that this factionalism stems from those who "are not ready to compromise with the opposition for fear of losing their position, and also among those who support a policy of quick surrender to the opposition." A *Bakhtar* report on the speech quoted Najib as stressing that the time has come to put an end to the "factionalism and groupism" that for years has been eroding the roots of party unity and damaging party discipline.

Najib also spoke of efforts to implement the country's policy of national reconciliation through contacts and coalition with the regime's opponents. "Contact with some of the representatives of the seven-party alliance" of rebel forces is "broadening and expanding," he said. According to *Bakhtar's* report, Najib said efforts are being made to accept a multi-party system and added that "we welcome" the founding of an Islamic party. The report continued that in future contacts with the "opponents who are living abroad, we would like to employ moderate and neutral forces" to normalize the situation.

Elsewhere in the speech as reported by *Bakhtar*, Najib praised the assistance of the Soviet troops in the country and acknowledged that "most" of the issues related to strengthening the ability of the Armed Forces "have not yet been solved." "All our units and detachments, at present, are not capable enough to, independently and successfully, resist the enemy," he said.

Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Council To Convene in Riyadh 24 Oct

LD192333 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Sayf ibn Hashil al-Maskari, the GCC's assistant secretary general for political affairs, has announced that the GCC ministerial council will be held in Riyadh on Saturday to discuss current developments in the Arabian Gulf region, particularly the fact that oil tankers have been fired at inside Kuwaiti territorial waters. [passage omitted]

Klibi Condemns 2d Iranian Attack on Kuwait

LD162026 Kuwait KUNA in English 2000 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] Tunis, Oct 16 (KUNA)—Secretary General of the Arab League Chedli Klibi today condemned in a statement to KUNA the Iranian second aggression on Kuwait in two days only.

Klibi said Iran wants to expand the scope of war in defiance of the international community which calls for implementation of Resolution 598.

He expressed confidence that these aggressions will enhance the international awareness of the real dangers threatening the region and urge the Security Council members to put the resolution into effect as soon as possible.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's Faruq Qaddumi on Relations With Syria

LD191213 Kuwait KUNA in English 1050 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Tunis, Oct 19 (KUNA)—The PLO's top diplomat, Faruq Qaddumi, has said the organizatin was striving for restoring normal ties with Syria and hoped Damascus would be more forthcoming. In an interview published here in *Al-Sabah* newspaper, head of the PLO's Political Department renewed the organization's desire to resolve its differences with Syria at the negotiating table.

Qaddumi likened the political dispute between the PLO and Damascus to a family row and said Syria, as the elder brother, should be more tolerant so that the two reconcile their differences and together stand in the face of the Arabs' common enemy.

He said recurrent upsurge in Palestinian resistance to the Israeli occupation and international recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organization have already put Palestine as a future independent state on the political map of the region.

He criticized Iran's oft-repeated slogans about liberating Jerusalem and said those who want to take part in the liberation of the holy city must not divert Arabs from their conflict with Israel.

He was apparently referring to the Iran-Iraq war which the PLO often complained was overshadowing the Palestinian question.

Syria-PLO Negotiations 'Under Way' in Cyprus

NC191801 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] The *Central News Agency* cites diplomatic Arab sources as saying that new rounds of negotiations between Syria and the PLO are under way in Cyprus in a new attempt to reach a political accord leading to a reconciliation between the two parties. According to these sources, a senior Syrian intelligence officer is leading the Syrian delegation, while Palestinian official Abu al-Hawl heads the Palestinian group. This new round of negotiations, the sources add, is aimed at reaching an agreement prior to the Amman summit conference and focuses on Damascus-Yasir 'Arafat relations with a view to seeking an end to the camps war in Lebanon.

No Results Seen From Talks

JN191936 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Contacts between Syria and the PLO have been confirmed but have not yet yielded any results. Syria and the PLO resumed unpublicized contacts 3 weeks ago. However, they have not yet reached agreement on resolving their sharp differences. This is what has been learned from an informed Palestinian source in Beirut.

Acccording to this source, Hasib Sabbagh, a wealthy Palestinian businessman who lives in the United States, was invited to Damascus 3 weeks ago. President Hafiz al-Asad received him and requested that he ask the PLO to clearly define its relations with Syria and its stands on Middle East issues.

After this meeting, the Fatah Central Committee and the PLO Executive Committee discussed the Syrian stand. Hasib Sabbagh then returned to Damascus accompanied by two Palestinian figures who are close to both the United States and Yasir 'Arafat. Sabbagh, accompanied by Walid al-Khalidi, a professor at a U.S. university, and Basil 'Aql, a Palestinian businessman who used to manage the PLO office in London in the late 1960's, met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. The Palestinian delegation was joined by Sa'id al-Khuri and met again with Syrian Vice President Khaddam on 11 October, when it gave him a written memorandum from the PLO's leaders. The delegation in turn received the Syrian response from Khaddam.

Two days later, Basil 'Aql returned to Damascus with a message from the PLO's leaders. According to the same Palestinian source, the Palestinian-Syrian talks dealt mainly with the PLO's relations with Arab states, PLO participation in the projected international peace conference, and the role of the Palestinian resistance in Lebanon. The source added that the talks' atmosphere was positive. Palestinian organizations in Lebanon, however, do not want to be over optimistic.

Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], a Fatah leader, said in Tunis that the contacts allowed an exchange of views on the future of relations between the two sides.

Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], Yasir 'Arafat's military assistant, stated that the talks did not bring about a decisive change in the stands, saying that Syria has not changed its stand toward the PLO. Abu Jihad noted that the normalization of relations between the PLO and Syria must be in accordance with the principle considering the PLO the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

According to informed sources, the reserved Palestinian stand is due to the failure of two previous secret meetings. The first was held between Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, and Faruq al-Shar', the Syrian foreign minister, on the Yugoslav island of Brioni in early June 1987. The second meeting was held in Limassol, Cyprus on 11 June 1987 between Abu al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid], chief of Fatah's intelligence service, and General Adnan Rami al-Hamadani, chief of the Syrian intelligence service.

Palestinian sources in Beirut refer to the PLO's desire to be invited to Damascus as a prelude to a reconciliation between President Hafiz al-Asad and the PLO Executive Committee chairman.

PLO Statement on Amal Attack on Shatila Camp

JN171710 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Oct 87

["Text" of statement issued by the PLO dated 16 October]

[Text] Continuing their attempts to obstruct the implementation of the articles of 11 September 1987 on ending the camps war, some parties in the Amal Movement opened machinegun fire, fired rockets, and threw hand grenades at peaceful civilians on the main street in the Shatila camp at 1600 on 14 October. The shelling came from Amal positions around the Shatila camp. Four people were wounded.

The continuation of these criminal attacks, as well as the siege of our people's camps and the banning of the entry of food supplies and medicines into these camps, are part of the U.S.-Zionist scheme. This scheme aims to destroy our people's camps in Lebanon and expel our kinfolk from them to pave the way for dividing Lebanon into sectarian statelets. This is a prelude to the Balkanization of the Arab region.

[Dated] 16 October 1987

Move To Close PLO New York Office Attacked

LD181005 Kuwait KUNA in English 0826 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] United Nations, Oct 18 (KUNA)—The non-aligned countries said the move by the United States Senate to close the observer mission of the Palestine Liberation Organisation in New York constitutes a denial of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to present and defend their cause in international forums.

It is also a "clear attempt to obstruct the search for a comprehensive, just and durable peace in the Middle East," the Coordinating Bureau of the non-aligned countries said in a communique issued over the weekend.

Noting that the Senate move, contained in Amendment 949, was in violation of the General Assembly resolution of 1974 and the headquarters agreement between the U.N. and the U.S. Government, the communique pointed out that the effort came at a time when "the entire international community was calling for the convening of an international conference on the Middle East."

The communique said the Senate amendment was a "flagrant violation of the norms of international law" and called upon Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to take the necessary measures to declare the U.N. position and to secure respect by the host country of the headquarters agreement.

The meeting also requested the chairman of the Coordinating Bureau to convey the concern of the movement to the secretary-general and the current president of the General Assembly.

The meeting once again condemned attempts by ultra-conservative elements in the United States to destroy the infrastructure of the PLO as well as "the insidious campaign aimed at distrorting the truth about the Palestinian people's liberation struggle and calling into question the policy pursued by the PLO."

The meeting also said it found "unacceptable and rejected any attempt to deny the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people its right to participate effectively in the work of the United Nations."

Gaza's Al-Shawwa on Bypassing Shultz Meeting

JN191623 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 18 Oct 87 p 1

[Text] London—Deposed Gaza Mayor Rashad al-Shawwa has told *Al-Ittihad* that he apologized to the U.S. Consulate in occupied Jerusalem for not attending the meeting to which he and a number of Palestinian figures were invited to meet with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. Shultz began a visit of several days to the Zionist entity yesterday.

Al-Shawwa said that he had apologized for not attending the meeting because as they say: You can tell the content of a book by its title. He asserted that the meeting would neither add to nor detract from the established facts in the Middle East and the international arena. This is especially true in view of the strategic relations between Israel and the United States.

OPEC Affairs

OAPEC Committee Begins Meeting in Kuwait

LD182227 Kuwait KUNA in English 1252 GMT 18 Oct 87

[By Shamel Khairy]

[Excerpt] Kuwait, Oct 18 (KUNA)—The Executive Bureau of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) began its meetings here Sunday at the OAPEC Headquarters to discuss the organization's draft budget and its affiliate establishments.

The meetings are attended by oil undersecretaries of OAPEC's nine member states or their representatives. Kuwait's Oil Undersecretary 'Abd al-Rahman al-Sultan is chairing the meetings.

The Executive Bureau meetings will discuss draft budgets of OAPEC, Arab Petroleum Training Institute and the judicial tribunal for the next year, 1988.

Official sources in OAPEC told *Kuwaiti News Agency* (KUNA) that the Executive Bureau will approve reducing the OAPEC budget to Kuwaiti dinar [K.D.] 1.5 million in implementation of the austerity policy demanded by the OAPEC oil ministers during their conference in Damascus last June.

The current budget of OAPEC is nearly K.D. 2 million while last year it was K.D. 2.7 and in 1983 it was K.D. 3 million. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Extension of Gulf Conflict Prompts Concern

LD192244 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In Algiers, the foreign affairs spokesman has said that the current extension of the Gulf conflict is accompanied by real risks of internationalization. Algeria deeply regrets the attack conducted in Kuwait's territorial waters, just as it regrets with equal vigor the armed action carried out against Iranian oil installations. The latter action was conducted by a power with essential responsibilities to maintain peace and international security. The spokesman also said that acts such as these impede the advancement of peace in the region. This comes at a time when the UN secretary general is expending his best efforts and energy on a mission of such delicacy that it is the absolute duty of everyone to work for its success. The foreign affairs spokesman stressed this as he recalled Algeria's full support for the secretary general's mission. [passage omitted]

Taleb Ibrahimi Visits Bolivia, Peru

For APS and Lima Domestic reports on the visit to Bolivia and Peru by Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, including his meetings with officials and the communiques issued, see the Bolivia and Peru sections of the 16 October Latin America *Daily Report*.

Egypt

Shultz Leaves for London To Meet King Husayn

NC191404 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and his accompanying delegation left Cairo this afternoon following a 6-hour visit to Cairo during which President Mubarak received him. Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, held separate meetings with Shultz. The U.S. secretary of state was seen off at Cairo airport by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid and U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Frank Wisner.

Shultz is scheduled to meet in London with King Husayn of Jordan, who is currently visiting there, to conclude his talks with the region's leaders on the latest developments in the Middle East. Shultz' visit to Cairo is part of a tour he is currently making of the region to study ways to boost the peace process. He had earlier visited Saudi Arabia and Israel.

Soviet Media Official Arrives; To Sign Protocol

NC192225 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2135 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA)—Iver Kuzbers, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio [name and title as received], arrived in Cairo this evening for a 1-week visit. Muhammad al-Khatib, director of international relations for the radio and television union, who was at the airport to receive the Soviet official, stated that during his visit a protocol for information cooperation will be signed between Soviet radio and television and the Egyptian radio and television union. The protocol will provide for a bilateral exchange of programs and expertise, in addition to organizing periodic visits for television and radio workers to both countries.

The protocol will be signed on the Egyptian side by Husayn 'Anan, chairman of the board of trustees of the radio and television union, and on the Soviet side by Kuzbers.

Muhammad al-Khatib said that the Soviet official will meet with Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif to discuss bolstering and developing information relations between the two countries.

Mubarak Receives Sudan's Idris al-Banna 19 Oct

NC190934 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA)—At the Presidential Palace this morning, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Idris al-Banna, deputy chairman of the Sudanese State Council, who is currently visiting Cairo.

Debt Rescheduling Talks With FRG To Begin

NC191745 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1643 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA)—Salah Hamid, governor of the Egyptian Central Bank, today met with Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation. This meeting is within the framework of coordination between the Central Bank and the Ministry of International Cooperation, particularly with respect to the negotiations on the debts Egypt owes to certain countries.

Negotiations with the FRG are scheduled to begin later as a prelude to rescheduling Egypt's debts to the FRG. The FRG is the second country with which Egypt will negotiate the rescheduling of debts. Egypt and France reached an agreement on rescheduling debts on 8 September.

FRATERNITE MATIN Interviews Butrus Ghali

AB131511 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 13 Oct 87 p 25

[Interview with Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, in Cairo by *Fraternite Matin* correspondent Mohamed Fana on the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the 6 October 1973 battle; date not given]

[Text] [Fana] Mr Minister, do you not think that the Chad-Libya conflict will undermine Arab-African cooperation as a result of Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi's position in favor of Libya?

[Ghali] We have a clear-cut position on the Chad-Libya conflict. We unreservedly support President Hissein Habre's legitimate government. We condemn the Libyan intervention in Chad because it is harmful to the subregion. Chedli Klibi's statement has no value. It is not the common position of all the member states of our organization. It is very awkward of him to make a statement that does not correspond with reality. The position that should be taken is to appeal to the two sides to have their dispute settled peacefully by an arbitration court or by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) as was the case with the Mali-Burkina conflict.

These two countries have implemented the decisions of the ICJ and have achieved peace. Libya itself had a similar dispute with Malta over the international waters of the continental shelf. This dispute was settled by the ICJ. Why should the Chad-Libya conflict not be settled in the same way?

At its recent meeting, the OAU ad hoc committee chaired by Gabonese President Omar Bongo made a lot of progress; it did an excellent job. These efforts must not be underestimated. Instead, they must be supported so that the ad hoc committee will pursue its mediation in this conflict which serves only to shed African blood.

[Fana] Mr Minister, it is a good thing to suport the OAU ad hoc committee, but its efforts can be thwarted by sending Arab Lebanese mercenaries to help Al-Qadhdhafi in Chad.

[Ghali] Without underrating this unfortunate strategy, I think that Walid Junblatt's gesture in sending combatants to Chad is rather symbolic. It has about it more of an air of folklore than of reality. Egypt strongly condemns this interference in African affairs.

[Fana] In an important interview with AFP, President Houphouet-Boigny clearly outlined the Ivory Coast's position shortly before the holding of the 42d OAU ministerial conference. What have you retained from this light shed by the "wise man of Africa" on that conflict between two African states? [Ghali] Egypt's diplomacy unreservedly endorses the recommendations of the "wise man of Africa" on the Chad-Libya dispute. We Egyptians are very respectful of President Houphouet-Boigny's advice. His advice is objective, disinterested, and aimed at strengthening African unity. We share his belief that if Libya withdraws from Chad and opens negotiations with that country, that will be the best way to achieve peace. The Chadian and Libyan peoples need nothing but peace to address themselves to the development of their respective countries as recommended by the pan-African organization.

[Fana] Mr Minister, it is not very well understood why President Mubarak withdrew his candidacy for the chairmanship of the OAU.

[Ghali] President Mubarak has never been a candidate for OAU chairman. During the mini-summit held here in Cairo, President Sassou-Nguesso informed us that Mr Kenneth Kaunda would be a candidate for the chairmanship of the OAU. In a swift response, Mr Mubarak then stated that Egypt would back the candidacy of Mr Kaunda, the chairman of the Frontline States. President Mubarak felt that if the Zambian leader became the chairman of the OAU, he could strengthen the pan-African organization and enhance its struggle for the eradication of apartheid in South Africa and the decolonization of Namibia. Our position has always been to back Mr Kaunda.

[Fana] Mr Minister, the history of Afro-Arab cooperation is a turbulent one. What do you think about this?

[Ghali] The cooperation between African and Arab states should be in line with South-South cooperation. They are two groups of developing countries that have gone through colonization and, in a general sense, they have suffered from colonial exploitation. They should know each other to better help each other. This cooperation took off in 1975. I was personally very closely associated with the launching of this cooperation because, as the Arab League ambassador extraordinary, I was responsible for explaining the idea to the African countries I visited.

It was in Cairo in 1977 that the first Afro-Arab summit was held and the first common institutions between the OAU and the Arab League created. Subsequently, these institutions failed to function. I would not like to dwell on the reasons for this failure.

[Fana] Yet, it is important to know why these institutions did not function so as to make changes and promote better cooperation between Arab and African states.

[Ghali] The fact that these institutions failed to function and that cooperation has not lived up to our expectations is not sufficient reason for us to stop believing in it. On the contrary, we must redouble our efforts to revive this South-South cooperation as a prerequisite for North-South dialogue. Afro-Arab cooperation is related to the Lagos Plan of Action and it is pursued within Africa. But

we must now pursue it on three continents within the Nonaligned Movement—among Latin American, African, and Asian countries. Developing countries do not know each other well enough. Most of the time their trade and economic links are with countries of the North.

In the interest of the countries of the South, and to foster international cooperation and peace, it would be beneficial for us to promote mutual assistance among ourselves. That is an objective of Egypt's diplomacy. It is not a bad thing in itself if such cooperation is pursued between Egypt and the Ivory Coast or at subregional or tri-continental levels. We, as countries of the South, need assistance from Europe. But for such assistance to be judicously distributed, we must first cooperate before seeking assistance from the North.

We must reconsider Afro-Arab cooperation even though it has not lived up to expectations. There is the need for further efforts to update it. What is 10 years in the history of nations? The history of nations is considered in terms of centuries. We are still at the beginning of a new experiment. Should we take another look at the much too burdensome structures? Maybe so. I personally feel that maintaining an Afro-Arab summit, the Council of Foreign Ministers, the 24-member Ministerial Commission, subcommittees, and a joint OAU-Arab League Secretariat is too burdensome. These institutions must be pruned down. Also, psychological and diplomatic action is much more necessary than figures [on the volume of Arab aid].

[Fana] Mr Minister, you are in a good position to understand why Arabs and Africans are not well-acquainted with each other. Efforts can be made. But the facts are there.

[Ghali] The reason is simply that we do not know one another. There is a similar situation: East African countries have little knowledge of those in West Africa. Those from the North also know little about their partners from the South. And yet we from the South are particularly interested in French or English internal politics. Furthermore, I will say that if a journalist from a country of the South receives two invitations, one from Europe and the other from an African capital, he will not hesitate to choose Europe. A high official from the South would rather be sent on a mission to Paris than to Cairo. So, there is this strange situation. We must therefore endeavor not to limit our ties to economic cooperation.

The mistake being made by some critics is that they consider Afro-Arab cooperation only from the financial angle. How much oil money has a particular country received? It is not enough or it is too much. This cooperation can be extended to cover many other fields: sports, culture, the press, and so on.

[Fana] Mr Minister, let us now speak of the much talked-about international peace conference on the Near East. Does Egypt believe in it as much as it believes in the Camp David accords?

[Ghali] It is not a new idea. In the final analysis, it implies the participation of both superpowers. If we look back we see that conferences have already been held on the Near East. There is an aspect of the Cold War in the crisis in that region. No conflict involving the Cold War has ever been resolved without the consent and support of the Big Two. So, such a conference would require their participation and they would have to reach a compromise.

[Fana] Despite some movement in the process, there are still many obstacles, especially the acceptance of the participation of Yasir 'Arafat's movement.

[Ghali] There are obstacles to any effort to achieve peace. The obstacles that we surmount are far smaller than those caused by military conflicts.

Tabah Arbitration Proceedings Begin in Geneva

NC141516 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1408 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Text] Geneva, 14 Oct (MENA)—Dr Nabil al-'Arabi, head of the Egyptian delegation to the Tabah talks and Egyptian permanent representatiave at the UN European headquarters in Geneva, has stated that Israel has submitted a request to present a third memorandum. It has been agreed that both countries—Egypt and Israel—will submit a third memorandum on 1 February 1988.

Dr al-'Arabi noted that the the tripartite committee, chaired by French Judge Bellet and including among its members Dr Hamid Sultan of Egypt and Ruth Lapidot of Israel, met with the two countries' representatives 2 days ago. The committee will hold further meetings during the current month.

Responding to Swiss press reports today that the two countries have settled the matter by conciliation, Dr al-'Arabi said the tripartite committee is striving to arrive at conciliation while the case is undergoing arbitration.

The Tabah arbitration tribunal began its meetings in Geneva 2 days ago. Both Egypt and Israel submitted their second defense memorandums. The Egyptian memorandum contained documents, papers, and maps proving Egypt's firm and inalienable right to Tabah.

In accordance with the arbitral compromis, the legal teams of the two countries will present their verbal submissions in the coming phase. In addition, the arbitration team will pay a field visit to the Tabah area in the middle of next February.

Navy Chief on Development of Naval Forces

NC182032 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Excerpts] Alexandria, 18 Oct (MENA)—Rear Admiral Muhammad Sharif al-Sadiq, commander of the Egyptian Navy, has said that he considers the Red Sea to be an area of possible naval conflict in view of current events in the Arabian Gulf and the dangers surrounding oil tanker traffic there.

He noted that the Red Sea will be the only waterway suitable for tankers which will carry oil from the Saudi port of Jeddah or the Gulf of Suez or from pipelines that might be built in the future to carry petroleum from Iraq or Saudi Arabia to Al-'Aqaba Port in Jordan.

He asserted that development of the Egyptian Navy and the process of raising the standard of its technical and combat capability are going on incessantly. He noted that naval units purchased from the Eastern Bloc have been decommissioned, with the exception of a few ships whose estimated service span has been extended until they are replaced with new units in accordance with the Armed Forces plan. These old units, however, have been equipped with modern arms systems, he said.

He pointed out that all naval units are now modern ones. All missile boats have been replaced with new "Ramadan" and "October" units and with Chinese-built ones. As far as submarine hunters and submarines are concerned, the Navy has purchased two Spanish and two Chinese frigates.

The rear admiral spoke at a news conference this morning at the Navy Headquarters on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Navy, which also marks the anniversary of the sinking of the Israeli destroyer *Eilat*. In the future we will concentrate on developing naval units and raising the standard of their arms systems, he said, adding that this must be done to meet present threats.

The Navy commander said that new minesweepers will be purchased, noting that deals have been made with the United States and the Netherlands to purchase small, sophisticated minesweepers.

He declared that agreement has been reached with the United States to develop some existing Egyptian naval units. He added: We will also carry out joint exercises with France, Italy, the United States, and Britain and hope to carry out joint exercises with the Arab countries in the Mediterranean to cooperate and coordinate efforts to defend shipping there.

Responding to a question concerning the threats to which the Middle East and the Arab region are being subjected and the development of the Egyptian Navy in the face of these threats, the Navy commander affirmed that the Egyptian Navy will respond to any specific threat in a specific naval theater. He explained: Our naval units will move toward the source of the threat. He noted that a plan has been made for such a procedure and naval units capable of protecting oil sources and international shipping in the Red Sea, the Gulf of Al-'Aqaba, and the Gulf of Suez have been chosen. He said this was done with the cooperation of other naval forces in the region. [passage omitted]

The rear admiral pointed out that the peace strategy of the Egyptian Armed Forces depends on deterrence, which is realized by raising the standard of the Armed Forces. He said that joint exercises with big powers, particularly the Bright Star maneuvers with the United States, are of great benefit to the Egyptian naval forces. He noted that the exercises give self-confidence to the Egyptian Forces, which compare well with the forces of the big powers. He added that such maneuvers are carried out in accordance with Egyptian needs and at the request of the participating countries. [passage omitted]

Military Exercise Tests Rockets, Artillery

NC141413 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Text] Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, today attended an exercise involving rockets and surface-to-air artillery. The exercise was held by the Air Defense Forces to test the performance of rockets and artillery which have now been modified to cope with advanced modern fighters.

The Egyptian air defense system Amun, the Egyptian rocket system Sinai-23, Egyptian MT-23 artillery, and SAM-2, SAM-3 and SAM-6 missiles which have been modified by Egyptian experts were involved in the exercise. During the exercise, which was held in five stages, 100 percent accuracy was achieved in hitting targets. Najla', Qadir-1, and Commander-2 planes—which are manufactured in Egypt—also put on a display.

The exercise was attended by Major General Hashim Muhammad Hijazi, the Sudanese Air Defense Forces commander; (Andokoli), the director of the U.S. aviation office [maktab al-tayaran] in the Middle East; and commanders of the Armed Forces branches.

Major General Mustafa al-Shadhili, commander of the Air Defense Forces, stated that 14 years after the October war the Air Defense Forces are undergoing more development and improvements and weapons are being diversified to catch up with advances in aviation. He said that future plans for the Air Defense Forces are proceeding in accordance with the general plan for the Armed Forces.

Israeli Request To Deport PLO Forces Rejected

JN151650 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 14 Oct 87 p 1

[Text] Diplomatic sources in Cairo say that Egypt recently rejected an Israeli request to deport the Palestinian 'Ayn Jalut forces from Egypt. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry rejected any foreign interference in its internal affairs. The Palestinian forces sought refuge in Egypt following their evacuation from Beirut in 1982.

The sources also say that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat recently sent a letter to President Husni Mubarak and requested immediate Egyptian intervention to stop the massacres perpetrated by the Lebanese militias against the Palestinian refugee camps around Baysur Village, east of Sidon.

The sources said that Egypt held intensive contacts with the Soviet Union last week to discuss ways to convince the Amal militias of the need to stop their hand grenade and rocket attacks on Palestinian civilians. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry instructed the official in charge of the Egyptian interests office in Lebanon to hold urgent contacts with the Lebanese Government and the leaders of the Lebanese militias, particularly Nabih Birri, leader of the Shi'ite Amal Movement, and Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Sunni militias, to discuss the possibility of stopping the fighting in Sidon and effecting reconciliation with the Palestinians.

The same sources said that President Mubarak recently sent a written message to Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil dealing with the conditions of the Palestinians in Lebanon.

Recently, Egypt has put tremendous pressure on Israel to persuade it to stop the savage massacres it was perpetrating against the unarmed Palestinians in southern Lebanon last August.

Sri Lankan Transportation Minister Arrives

NC132241 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2123 GMT
13 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—Mr Mohamed Hosayn Mohamed Hanifah, Sri Lankan minister of transportation and communications and patron of Islamic affairs [name and title as received], arrived in Cairo this evening for a 3-day visit to Egypt. Upon arrival the Sri Lankan minister stated that during his visit he will discuss with Egyptian officials the situation in Sri Lanka and the agreement signed in Sri Lanka last month with the Egyptian company (Simaf) to purchase 25 railway container cars. [passage omitted]

Paper on Escalation of Gulf 'War Operations'

NC200556 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2330 GMT
19 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA)—*Al-Ahram* warns of the seriousness of the situation in the Gulf and the escalation of war operations in the area despite the diplomatic efforts being made to contain this situation.

In its commentary appearing in Tuesday's edition, the paper notes that the situation in the Gulf has assumed new dimensions as a result of the many complications and intricacies that have occurred there. The paper adds that this has turned the Gulf into something akin to a turbulent sea.

Al-Ahram says that there have been several incidents between the United States and Iran over the past few weeks, the latest being the attack last week on a Kuwaiti oil tanker flying the U.S. flag. The paper notes that all of these fall within the scope of war operations. Kuwait, the United States, and other parties have described the most recent attack as a flagrant aggression against Kuwait's sovereignty. In this connection, Kuwait and the United States have reserved their right to take appropriate steps and to retaliate.

The paper affirms that the expansion of war operations in the Gulf puts the UN Security Council and the world in a new, more complicated and more difficult situation.

Al-Ahram concludes its commentary by saying that the current situation, in which there is such a swift expansion of military operations at a time when this is not accompanied by swift diplomatic efforts, is the primary danger confronting the area. The paper notes that such diplomatic efforts are entrusted to the UN Security Council, through the UN secretary general's contacts. The paper expresses its hope that Iran will respond to the exigencies of peace and its definitive provisions as stipulated in the UN Security Council resolution.

Paper Views Issues of Shultz Mideast Tour

NC200520 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2300 GMT
19 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA)—Commenting on the visit by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to Egypt yesterday and his meeting with President Husni Mubarak, *Al-Jumhuriyah* emphasizes that Shultz heard a clear and frank viewpoint that aims to bolster the process leading to a just and lasting peace. Such a peace can only be achieved through the convocation of a meeting of all the parties concerned, including the PLO, within the framework of an international conference in which the five permanent member states of the UN Security Council will participate in an attempt to negotiate a comprehensive solution that will put the area at the threshold of peace.

In its commentary appearing in its Tuesday edition, the paper says that the tour which the U.S. secretary of state is making, which has included Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt and which will conclude with a meeting with King Husayn of Jordan, comes at a time of mounting tension in the Gulf waters, when the rulers of Iran are insisting on internationalizing the conflict in the area and pushing other parties into its flaming inferno.

The paper says that the U.S. secretary of state's tour is being carried out at a time when the wishes of the parties concerned with the Middle East problem have become clear with regard to an international conference for peace. It notes that on the Arab side the activities of Arab, and especially Egyptian and Jordanian diplomacy,

is clear; namely, it seeks to resolve the obstacles preventing the convocation of the conference and to succeed in convincing the entire world of its importance as a suitable instrument to achieve a just and lasting solution to the conflict.

As for Israel, the world has come to realize that the issue of an international conference has become a crisis between the Shamir-led Likud bloc and the Peres-led Labor bloc. The paper notes that the Likud bloc sees no need for such a conference and is seeking direct negotiations, whereas the Labor bloc views an international conference as a suitable formula and an idea that deserves to be given a chance.

Al-Jumhuriyah adds that time will tell whether Shultz has emerged from his tour emptyhanded or has succeeded, as officials in Israel have declared, in achieving some progress in narrowing the gap between Peres and Shamir.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi: Government 'Stands by' Iran

LD192048 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution, in a statement made to JANA, has said that the Great Jamahiriyah stands by Iran in its confrontation with the imperialist attack it is being subjected to at the hands of U.S. forces—an attack directed against Iran's assets and dignity. It thus becomes clear that the ambitions of the imperialist forces are limitless. The imperialist forces aim to control the entire world. Nations engaging in such terrorist actions against the peoples of the world should not have a seat on the UN Security Council, because it is the latter's duty is to keep the peace. What the United States is doing threatens peace; it does not preserve it. States with permanent seats on the UN Security Council and which are responsible for protecting world peace should play their role to halt this U.S. rumpus threatening world peace. Otherwise, there will be no justification for it to be on the Security Council.

Damascus TV on Al-Asad Note to Al-Qadhdhafi

JN191838 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, last night received in Tripoli Munir Barikhan, the head of the Syrian Arab relations office there. Barikhan conveyed a letter from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to Col al-Qadhdhafi.

PLO Representative Presents Credentials

JN151956 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1812 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Text] Brother 'Izzat Abu al-Rub has presented his credentials as PLO representative to Brother Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. On the same occasion, they touched on a number of political issues of interest to the PLO and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Sudan

Anyanya II Threatens Ethiopian Aircraft, Radio

LD182120 Omdurman Radio of the Sudan People's Armed Forces in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Excerpts] [Introductory passage indistinct] We are grateful to all the countries which agreed to help Sudan achieve peace by ending the bloodshed among the sons of the one homeland. We refer not to Ethiopia, but to Kenya, Uganda, and certain others which have tried to help the Sudanese people solve their problems. However, we, the leaders of Anyanya II, speaking on behalf of the South and its problems, declare that all of Garang's exaggerations are false. Involving these states amounts to embroiling them in something which could be considered a direct intervention in the affairs of the great Sudanese people, the people of the uprising and revolution, the fighting people who can thwart any conspiracy hatched against them from abroad. [passage omitted]

The Anyanya II will fight this. We say to John Garang and Mengistu: We are going to use the SAM-7 missiles we received from you to shoot down your aircraft that overfly Sudanese territory, especially in the South. This is a direct warning to all Ethiopian aircraft and transport.

The Anyanya II did not, and will not, accept treason. We will work openly against the SPLA movement for as long as it betrays the pledge, the people, and the sons of the South. We shall confront them with everything at our disposal. [passage omitted]

We say this to John Garang: We will silence the poisonous radio which broadcasts your speeches from Addis Ababa. This radio is going to be silenced. We are going to silence it with all the means at our disposal because it is a radio of falsehoods and lies. The simpleminded Marhum Dut who broadcasts from this radio does nothing but abuse and insult people without giving any facts about this society [word indistinct]. We have to fight it with everything we have, either inside Addis or even outside Addis, and in every other country. [passage omitted]

Minister Cited on Foreign Intelligence Activity

JN181030 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 16 Oct 87 p 19

[Text] Khartoum—Sudanese Interior Minister Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn has stated that foreign intelligence services are active in the southern Darfur and southern Kordofan areas.

Commenting on opinions voiced by deputies of the Constitutent Assembly on the deteriorating security situation in western Sudan, the interior minister accused Libya, France, and Chad of carrying out intelligence operations in these areas. He said these countries benefit from the deteriorating security situation caused there by the Chad-Libya war.

Al-Husayn explained that the government has laid down a plan banning members of tribes in several areas of the country from carrying firearms. He said this plan is part of the government's measures to confront armed militias and armed robberies.

The interior minister explained to the Constituent Assembly that the advanced weapons the militias are using in armed robberies come from the struggle between Libya and Chad. He added that the removal of these weapons will help restore Sudan's security.

15,000 Protest IMF Accord, Economic Policy

LD191856 Kuwait KUNA in English 1452 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Khartoum, Oct 19 (KUNA)—A demonstration of about 15,000 mostly bearded men and [word indistinct] women marched along the main streets of the Sudanese capital-Khartoum protesting the recent agreement between Sudan Government and the International Monetary Fund IMF, and condemning rebel leader John Garang as a criminal.

The demonstrators were carrying banners denouncing the IMF-linked economic policy.

Other banners demanded immediate application of the Islamic laws.

The protesters from trade unions affiliated to the National Islamic Front (NIF) chanted "la' ilaha ila Allah" (no God but Allah) and (ilhad li-man yatrad) (Islamic punishment for renegades.)

The Moslem fundamentalist demonstrators stopped at the Armed Forces General Command Headquarters where a NIF leader made a speech denouncing activities of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement Army (SPLM/SPLA) and calling for a severe military action rather than mere statements against the rebels.

The peaceful demonstration moved on and halted at the Council of Ministers where its leaders handed a memorandum demanding immediate abrogation of the agreement with the IMF, laying down, instead, a national economic plan based on self-reliance and cutting down the government "extravagant" expenditures.

The memorandum, which was delivered to the Cabinet Secretariat, also demanded immediate general mobilization, enactment of a high treason law to try supporters of SPLM leader John Garang inside and outside Sudan and strengthening of the Armed Forces to deal with the rebellion.

The demonstration then marched to the Khartoum University mosque where a thanks-giving prayer was performed to observe the victory of the Islamic movement in the university student union elections in which all 40 seats of the union council were won by supporters of the NIF.

Chevron Oil To Resume Exploration Activities

JN161806 Khartoum SUNA in English 1723 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Text] Khartoum, Oct. 15 (SUNA) The Chevron-Sudan Oil Company is currently preparing to resume its oil prospection operations in the western part of the Sudan.

The company is expected to start drilling of two new wells at end of next February at Al-Muglad area, western region of Kordofan.

The company's director stated that oil prospecting operations have been halted since July 1986 because prospection results were not positive despite the great funds spent by the company adding that the company decided to analyse the prospection results in that area and to link this analysis with work in the southern well of "Bantieu", so that oil discovered be commercially fruitful.

Bahrain

No 'Benefit' to Palestinians Meeting Shultz

JN191609 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Manama, Oct 19 (GNA)—[Passage omitted] Bahraini daily *Akhbar al-Khalij* said today that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' visit to the region and to the occupied Arab land and efforts to meet with Palestinian officials is an attempt to drive a wedge in Palestinian ranks.

The paper expressed its opinion that the Palestinians did not lose anything when they refused to meet with Shultz.

"They are not going to benefit from the meetings so long as the U.S. refuses to recognise the Palestinian people or the PLO organisation and as long as the U.S. is allied with the Zionist enemy and supports its occupation of Arab lands."

The paper also cited the arbitrary decision to close the PLO office in Washington as another reason why Palestinian officials would have gained nothing by meeting Shultz. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on U.S. Gulf Action

LD201143 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1103 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait [dateline as received]—An official spokesman for the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry has made the following statement to KUNA:

Kuwait has followed reports of a limited U.S. military action against some Iranian oil installations in international waters of the Arabian Gulf. Kuwait, which has on numerous occasions stressed that it is not a party to the war in the Gulf, has expressed and still expresses the maximum dissatisfaction with and anxiety over the aggravation of tension in the Arabian Gulf region. Kuwait and the international community have constantly warned against the consequences of Iran's continued hostile actions against international shipping in the Gulf in the form of hindering international shipping, laying mines in the lanes of the Gulf, or striking at ships in international waters that belong to states not a party to this war. The latest of these was the attack on the oil tanker *Sea Isle City*, which was flying the U.S. flag in Kuwaiti territorial waters.

This limited military action was a reaction to Iran's continuation of these activities.

Aware of the underlying explosive possibilities of the current situation, Kuwait again calls on the international community and especially the Security Council both to intensify efforts to defuse the crisis in the region by displaying the required amount of firmness and seriousness to implement UN Security Council Resolution No 598—which offers a balanced way of ending this bloody conflict—and to save this vital region and the whole world from the evils and dangers of this war's continuation.

PLO Chairman 'Arafat Arrives 18 Oct

Views Ties With Syria

LD182027 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1832 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 18 Oct (KUNA)—Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived here this evening on a several-day visit within the framework of his tour of Arab countries prior to the emergency Arab summit scheduled to convene in Amman on 8 November. [passage omitted]

'Arafat said that his presence in Kuwait was to affirm the stand of the Palestinian people and Palestinian mujahidin and revolutionaries on the side of their brethren in Kuwait—the amir, the leadership, and the people—in the face of the continuous Iranian aggressions against Kuwait and against our brothers in the Gulf, and also to say that any aggression against any inch of the Arab land is an aggression against the Arab nation as a whole. This is not a chauvinistic stance, he added, but in this I proceed from the utterances of the prophet, may the prayers and blessings of God be upon him: Whoever dies for his dignity is a martyr, whoever dies for his land is a martyr, and whoever dies for his property is a martyr. Defending one's land is like defending one's dignity, like defending property, like defending faith.

In addition, 'Arafat said that he was on a tour of the Arab countries prior to the Arab summit to consult with his brothers the Arab leaders on what he could do amid these challenges facing the Arab nation and particularly the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war. This conflict is against the Iranian and Iraqi peoples, against the Arab and the Islamic nations, and against the Palestinian cause first and foremost.

Whoever wants to liberate Jerusalem, he said, must stop this war so that we can go together to liberate it.

Concerning relations between his organization and Syria, 'Arafat said: We have exchanged messages, and there is a new message from the Syrian leadership that we are going to answer.

As for whether there is a Palestinian working paper for the Arab summit, 'Arafat said: Our working paper is the paper of the Arab nation. On his call for convening an emergency Islamic summit, 'Arafat said that this call is still there but has been postponed until after the Arab summit. A step will then be taken in agreement with the his highness the current cochairman. [passage omitted]

Holds 'Intensive' Talks

LD200529 Kuwait KUNA in English 1524 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 19 (KUNA)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat Monday held intensive talks with H.H. the amir and H.H. Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah and Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad.

Khalid al-Hasan, chairman of foreign relations committee of the Palestine National Council (PNC), who attended the talks, told KUNA following the meeting that, talks focussed on issues related to the emergency Arab summit scheduled to be held in Amman next month and coordination efforts for reaching an unwavering Arab stance in face of threats against Arab nation.

He added that, 'Arafat's visit comes within the framework of an Arab tour that already took him to Mauritania, Tunisia, Algeria and Iraq. He will continue his tour to other Gulf states, Al-Hasan noted.

Al-Hasan said that, 'Arafat also reviewed with Kuwaiti leaders developments in the Palestinian arena and the Gulf region.

'Arafat asseted to the Kuwaiti leadership that, Palestinian revolution is ready to support Kuwait and its sisterly Gulf countries and any efforts to end the ongoing Iraq-Iran war.

The talks were attended by a Palestinian delegation including deputy speaker of Palestine National Council, Salim al-Za'nun and Director of PLO Office in Kuwait 'Awni Battash in addition to Al-Hasan.

Al-Hasan declared that 'Arafat will elaborate on his talks with Kuwaiti leaders and on the overall Arab situation in a press conference, which will be held here later this evening.

Holds News Conference

LD200558 Kuwait KUNA in English 1722 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 19 (KUNA)—Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasir 'Arafat Monday called on the Iranian leadership to abide by Security Council Resolution 598 and to respond to peace efforts seeking an end to the war that threatens Arab and Muslim naitons.

In a press conference held here this evening, 'Arafat said "For the last three years, I have been shuttling the area to warn against the expected repercussions of the war which unfortunatly became visible and grave."

The Gulf war, which impedes progress in settling the Palestinian cause, does not only threaten the Gulf region's countries but the Arab and Muslim nations and all Third World countries, he asserted.

For the sake of sparing Moslem blood, Iraq has accepted Security Council Resolution 598 stipulating a ceasefire between the two Gulf belligerents, the PLO leader pointed out.

On his meetings with the Kuwaiti leadership, 'Arafat said that the talks focussed on the serious situation in the Gulf region and escalation in the war that threatens the region and international peace.

The forthcoming extraordinary Arab summit that will be convened in Amman Nov 8 was also a subject of discussion, the PLO chief added.

Talks with H.H. the amir of Kuwait, H.H. the crown prince and premier and the deputy premier and foreign minister were valuable, important and fraternal, 'Arafat said in his press conference.

"Since the Kuwaiti leadership was concerned about conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab lands, I briefed them about latest developments there", 'Arafat said.

He asserted the support of the PLO, the Palestinian people and their forces to Kuwait and to all Arab countries of the region.

Indicating that a Palestinian proposal will be submitted before the forthcoming extraordinary Arab summit to adopt a unified Arab stance to counter threats facing the Arab nation, 'Arafat expressed belief that there is an all Arab commitment towards resolutions that were adopted by the Arab Fez summit in Morocco and what was agreed upon in Casablanca concerning the convocation of the international Mideast peace conference.

On what is required from Arab leaders when they meet next month, the PLO leader said a "unified voice" to face external threat. [passage indistinct] In ending the Iraq-Iran war 'Arafat said that this proposal has nothing to do with the upcoming Arab summit and added that as a member of the Islamaic goodwill committee "I insist on forming such a force."

Assessing Palestinian-Egyptian relations, the PLO leader said the stalemate in relations between the two sides is over and added that "fraternal relationship is deeper than the closure of an office."

"Contacts are underway between the two sides," 'Arafat said and added that "nothing stops me from visiting Egypt."

"Messages between the PLO and the Syrian leadership were exchanged," he indicated.

On the prospects for the convening of the international peace conference on the Middle East, 'Arafat said the U.S. which was able to scrap "the Lavi project" can take a similar action to influence decision for the convocation of the proposed conference "if it so wishes."

Bahraini Prime Minister Arrives 20 Oct
LD201000 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0918 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, 20 Oct (KUNA)—Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al-Khalifah, prime minister of the State of Bahrain, arrived here today on a visit to Kuwait. He is leading a delegation that includes Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, the prime minister; and a number of senior Government of Bahrain officials. The Bahraini guest was given an official welcome at Kuwait International Airport. Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister, led those assembled to welcome the Bahraini guests.

Minister Praises Libya's 'Firm Stances'
LD171846 Tripoli JANA in English 1708 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Al-Tumur [October] 17, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—Sa'ud al-'Usaymi, Kuwait's minister of state for foreign affairs, has lauded the firm stances of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution's firm stances towards the Arab causes and threats endangering Arab existence.

This came during a meeting held by the Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs with heads of diplomatic mission accredited to Kuwait.

Iran Urged To Grasp 'Lesson' From U.S. Acts
LD200913 Kuwait KUNA in English 0800 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 20 (KUNA)—A local newspaper Tuesday urged Iran to grasp the lesson represented in destroying two Iranian offshore oil platforms by the U.S. forces and called on Tehran to refrain from expanding the Gulf war.

Al-Ra'y al-'Amm newspaper added that the U.S. response against Iran was well studied and hit selected targets which Tehran uses as military bases to attack non-belligerent shipping in the Arabian Gulf.

The paper stressed that the Gulf can not endure more of this war while others insist on continuing the war for considerations relating to their situation, and they think they can fight the whole world with their hard-headed minds and drained resources.

The game which Iran plays under the banner of confrontation and avenge from the Great Satan is not in favour of any party including Iran itself, the paper said. [sentence as received]

PDRY

Kuwaiti Paper on Recent Clash With Oman
JN161149 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 14 Oct 87 p 1

[By Muhammad Zayn]

[Text] Abu Dhabi—*Al-Siyasah* has learned that the letter from Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the PDRY's Supreme People's Council Presidium, to Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, contains a detailed explanation of the border incident that took place between Muscat and Aden 2 days ago. The message was delivered to the UAE president by Muhammad Ahmad Jarhum, the PDRY's minister of culture and information.

The details of these incidents are that a PDRY border patrol mistakenly penetrated 8 km inside Omani territory. This led to a clash with an Omani patrol which resulted in eight members of the PDRY patrol being killed.

Observers have affirmed to *Al-Siyasah* that the armed clash occurred as a result of false assessments and not out of premeditated provocation. Therefore, this incident will only be a summer cloud that will not affect the good relations that exist between the two fraternal countries. On this basis, Shaykh Zayid made more than one telephone call to His Majesty Sultan Qabus of Oman and Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the PDRY, which led to a settlement of the incident.

Political Bureau Discusses USSR Ties
EA182345 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] At its regular meeting this morning chaired by Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, the YSP Central Committee Political Bureau considered a number of items on its agenda. It highly rated the outcome of the meeting between Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, and Comrade Yegor Ligachev, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in Moscow on 10 October of this year. During the meeting, relations between our country and the friendly USSR in various spheres were discussed, with particular reference to economic aspects, especially the extraction of oil. The Political Bureau stressed the need for perseverance in continuing to strengthen and develop this cordial cooperation between the YSP and the CPSU and between the PDRY and the friendly USSR in various spheres.

Minister on Summit, Qatar Ties, YAR

JN181357 Doha QNA in Arabic 0930 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] Doha, 18 Oct (QNA)—Dr Muhammad Ahmad Jirghum, the PDRY minister of culture and information, has stressed the importance of holding the upcoming extraordinary Arab summit in Amman. He said that this summit should secure the minimum level of Arab solidarity concerning the Gulf region, the Palestine question, and the convocation of an international Middle East peace conference.

In a statement to the Qatari newspaper *Al-'Arab* published today, Dr Jirghum pointed out his country's position on the Iraq-Iran war, one that calls on the two parties to peacefully end this war and the problems resulting from it. He stated: The PDRY supports all Arab initiatives in this regard, and we have already supported UN Security Council Resolution 598 calling for an end to this war.

Dr Jirghum said his visit to Qatar last week showed a closer identity of viewpoints between the PDRY and Qatar on the vital issues facing the Arab nation, whether on the situation in the Arabian Gulf and the escalation of regional tension or the Palestine question. He said current PDRY moves in the Gulf come within the framework of coordinating efforts and exchanging views on the latest developments in the regional situation and the upcoming Arab summit in Amman.

Dr Jirghum explained that his visit to Qatar will have an effect at the information and cultural levels and will further promote cultural and information relations.

In reply to a question on the nature of relations between the GCC and the PDRY, Dr Jirghum said: Our relations with countries in the region are historical and fraternal. While there are some points on which we disagree, there are many points that unite us on issues serving the common interests of the region's peoples. My country's current moves stem from these issues.

Concerning the nature of PDRY-Omani relations, Dr Jirghum affirmed his country's keen desire to promote relations with Oman since the conclusion of an agreement on principles between the two countries. He described the recent visit by the PDRY minister of justice to Oman as successful and said that it will advance the date for exchanging ambassadors between the two countries.

Dr Jirghum also discussed the unification program between the two parts of Yemen. He said that the program, which is still under discussion by the two countries, mainly focuses on evaluating the outcome of unification activity during the past years. It also involves ways to assist the unification committees which ended their missions before the convocation of the Yemeni summit.

Dr Jirghum pointed out that the program also touches on promoting economic, social, and cultural relations between the two parts of Yemen. This is in addition to the discussion of all aspects pertaining to the unified state's constitution and the time needed to discuss and approve this project. The coming months will witness more meetings on unification between the two parts.

On whether there are differences in views between the two parts of Yemen regarding the issue of the refugees who left Aden for Sanaa, Dr Jirghum denied the existence of a dispute in this regard. He said this issue was addressed following the 13 January events in the PDRY. An amnesty decision was issued immediately after those events, followed by a series of measures securing the return to normal life, and the right for these people to exercise full rights according to the Constitution.

Dr Jirghum added that if there are still some people remaining outside the homeland, it is because they have chosen to remain there of their own free will. To facilitate solving these people's problems, the authorities have also allowed families who wanted to join them to leave without any complications. These solutions have eased if not actually eliminated this problem.

In reply to a question on the existence of Ethiopian mediation to solve the refugees' problems following the January events, Dr Jirghum said no Arab or foreign country is mediating. He explained that all of the countries that have relations with the PDRY know this is an internal problem that should be tackled at this level.

Concerning the discovery of oil in the PDRY, Dr Jirghum said: Studies on the first three wells indicate an estimated deposit of 400-500 million tonnes. Installations for extracting oil and gas are being built. In the next 3 months, we expect to finish studies on building a pipeline to Aden in two phases; the first phase calls for laying oil pipelines to the nearest point on the coast.

Qatar

Attacks on Kuwaiti Tankers Regretted

JN191158 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1048 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Doha, 19 Oct (WAKH)—The State of Qatar has expressed regret over the recurrent aggressive acts against Kuwaiti tankers in Kuwaiti territorial waters.

Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs, today stated that the aggression against fraternal Kuwait's sovereignty aggravates the situation and requires collective international effort to put an end to the Iraq-Iran war.

In his statement to QNA, Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani stressed that Qatar stands by Kuwait in defense of its sovereignty, safety, territory, and people.

Papers Cited On U.S. Strike Against Iran

JN201212 Doha QNA in Arabic 0900 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Doha, 20 Oct (QNA)—In their editorials today, the Qatari papers warned against the gravity of successive developments in the Iraq-Iran war and called for intensifying current efforts to stop the war and implement the UN Security Council resolution on this issue.

Referring to the attack by the U.S. destroyers against an Iranian platform in the Gulf, *Al-Rayah* daily termed it a grave development that poses the danger of a comprehensive U.S.-Iranian confrontation. The newspaper hoped that these unusual regional circumstances will prompt all sides present in the Gulf waters to practice the greatest degree of self-restraint and to avoid everything that might lead to an explosion threatening regional security and stability.

Al-Rayah stressed that the only way out of the current imbroglio is to concentrate all efforts towards implementing the UN Security Council resolution calling for ending this war before its continuous escalation snowballs into grave consequences for the entire world.

Al-'Arab daily referred to the continuous deterioration and increasing dangers of the Iraq-Iran war despite international efforts to put an end to this conflict and to restore regional stability. The newspaper said that several mediations failed, many moves stumbled, and that international resolutions were rejected with the situation becoming extremely delicate and dangerous, particularly at this time when further warships and aircraft carriers are arriving in the region, thus increasing fears of international confrontations.

In concluding, the paper said that UN efforts are now the only hope to rescue what can be saved before it is too late.

The English-language *Gulf Times* regretted the latest developments which came at a time when hopes were great for a near end to the war, for the withdrawal of foreign fleets from the region, and for the restoration of security and stability.

Concluding, the newspaper called on the concerned parties both to practice self-restraint and resort to logic in order to reach a quick and acceptable settlement before it is too late, and to prevent further ramifications that are not in the interests of any party.

Saudi Arabia

U.S. Report on Reaction to YAR Oil Denied

LD192345 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2033 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Riyadh, 19 Oct (SPA)—In answering a report published in the 16 October 1987 edition of the *Dallas Morning News* claiming that a U.S. company known as Arabian Shield—in which some Saudi personalities are shareholders—had filed suit against another company known as Mant Oil [name as received] due to rivalry between the two companies over concession contracts, and that Saudi officials had at the start ofthe year told the paper in question that the discovery of oil in the YAR had worried the Saudis and that it had led to some border clashes, an official source told SPA today everything this newspaper had reported concerning the Saudi Arabian Kingdom has no basis in fact at all and that if there had been any shareholders in the Arabian Shield company these shareholders represent no one but themselves.

At the conclusion of the statement the source added: "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had declared more than once that it was one of the first to congratulate fraternal Yemen on the discovery of oil on its territory and that it wished the government and people of the fraternal YAR well-being, progress, and prosperity."

Radio on Importance of Prince's U.S. Visit

LD192225 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Oct 87

["News and Comment" by Husayn al-Askari]

[Text] Today in Washington Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and commander of the National Guard, begins his meetings with senior U.S. officials during his official visit to the United States.

Observers are following with increasing interest Prince 'Abdallah's visit to the United States. They do so not only because the visit is taking place at a time when events in the region are escalating, but also because the international community always listens with with much interest to the Saudi viewpoint, which was and still is a view representing logic and wisdom and expressing the Arab nation's conscience and feelings. Within this framework, the visit assumes an importance since his highness will be the strong voice of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which deals with events and changes in events with full awareness and with a view taking into account the dimensions of everything that surrounds the Kingdom. This qualifies the Kingdom to have its views on finding a solution to guarantee the region's security and safety, and in general the security and safety of the international community.

The crown prince thus represents not only his country but will express the stances and opinions of his Arab and Islamic nations. The Kingdom enjoys the respect and appreciation of its Arab and Muslim brothers, for the latter realize, through experience, that the Kingdom gives the same primacy to the issues and interests of its brothers as it does its own. This is because the Kingdom strongly believes that the strength of the Arabs and Muslims lies in their unity of aims, which leads to the formalization of their choice as an expression of their will, particularly at a time when dangers around them are

increasing and the world no longer has any room or influence save for the unity of stance and unity of view. Within this framework comes the meeting of his highness with U.S. President Reagan and senior U.S. Administration officials. As Prince Bandar, the ambassador of the two holy mosques to the United States, said: The importance of this visit stems from the fact that the crown prince enjoys international respect and appreciation.

United Arab Emirates

Soviet Trade Party Proposes Joint Company

JN181113 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0710 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 Oct (WAKH)—It was stated here today that the Soviet trade delegation currently visiting the UAE has proposed to UAE officials establishing a joint Soviet-UAE company to bolster bilateral trade relations, provided that the UAE is represented by several local companies able to market Soviet products in local markets.

During a meeting here yesterday with senior officials at the Chamber of Trade and Industry in Abu Dhabi, the Soviet delegation showed readiness to cooperate with the UAE Chamber of Trade and Industry to realize further trade cooperation with Soviet chambers.

Salih Rashid al-Zahiri, chairman of the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Trade and Industry, made four proposals to the Soviet delegation to enhance bilateral trade cooperation. The proposals included the establishment of a Soviet trade center in Abu Dhabi and the encouragement of banking relations between UAE banks and Soviet banks.

The two sides also discussed the possibility of holding an exhibition for Soviet products and the conclusion of a protocol for economic cooperation between the two countries.

Soviet trade with the UAE is in its early stages and Soviet exports to the UAE during 1986 did not exceed 500,000 dirhams.

Papers Cited on Shultz, Vorontsov Tours

JN181127 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0625 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 18 Oct (WAM)—In their editorials today, local newspapers ponder the objectives of the Middle East visit of George Shultz, the U.S. secretary of state, given that the U.S. Administration knows in advance the views—whether on the Palestine question or the situation in the Gulf—of all concerned parties in the region.

The newspaper *Al-Ittihad* says: Shultz listened to a very important and useful talk by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia. This talk reflects not only the Saudi stand but also the well-known and declared stand of the GCC states. This stand on the dangers of the Iraq-Iran war's expansion and the GCC states' responsibility to defend their territorial waters and protect free navigation in international waters has been announced by these states.

The newspaper indicates that the large powers bear a great responsibility toward achieving the aforementioned objective. It adds: They must shoulder their responsibilities in this regard if they truly desire to preserve world peace and security. To shoulder this responsibility, it is not enough to issue a warning, statement, or threat to carry out a military action. What is needed is to effect a responsible and serious endeavor to end the war. The newspaper emphasizes that present issues require decisiveness, resoluteness, and a serious stand capable of tackling problems and not their consequences. [passage omitted]

The newspaper *Al-Wahdah* expresses the belief it is wrong to believe that the Americans and Soviets are working to reach a drastic solution to the Middle East conflict and the Iraq-Iran war.

In its editorial, the newspaper says that the perspectives of the Americans and the Soviets regarding their strategic interests are based on the continuation of regional conflicts and disputes in the Arab region. The paper emphasizes it is wrong for the Arab countries to bet on any serious Soviet or U.S. role that may help resolve these hot issues, indicating that the Soviets are completely preoccupied with sharing the cake with their U.S. rivals, even if this requires the restoration of relations between Moscow and Tel Aviv and leaving the door of emigration wide open for Soviet Jews. The paper also points out that the Americans are at the same time preoccupied with conferring an official status on their military presence in the region. It continues that the tours of both George Shultz, the U.S. secretary of state, and Vorontsov, the Soviet first deputy foreign minister, fall within the framework of the intense rivalry between the two superpowers to arrange the situation in accordance with their strategic interests.

The newspaper accuses both the Soviet Union and the United States of being behind the ongoing dangerous regional situation as represented by the continuation of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Iraq-Iran war. It also accuses them of initiating wars and regional conflicts in the heart of the Islamic world.

In concluding its editorial, the newspaper says: Had the two superpowers been serious in their efforts to establish peace in the Middle East, the Palestine question would have been resolved decades ago, and the Iraq-Iran war would either not have begun or at least would not have continued in such a dangerous manner.

Shultz' Purpose Viewed

JN181711 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 17 Oct 87 p 1

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] We do not believe U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' current Middle East tour is aimed at exploring the stands of the region's states on the proposed international conference as much as it is aimed at assisting in formulating a unified Israeli decision on the conference, as well as at guiding this conference—if it is convened—in a direction that appeals to Israel, which will only agree to direct negotiations or something similar. Actually, Shultz' visit to the Zionist entity began amid speculation paved by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir implying that there are Palestinian figures in the occupied territories who agree to direct negotiations. He also implied that these figures can be regarded as an alternative to the PLO in these negotiations. However, the Palestinian figures' response, which Shamir did not expect, came in two parts. First there was the Palestinian document that was presented to Shultz in which these figures affirmed adherence to the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole, legitimate representative. Second, these figures refused to meet with Shultz.

Thus, the Palestinian stance came as a blow to Shamir's plans on the one hand, and provided the opportunity for Shultz to form a true understanding of the crux of the Middle East crisis away from any Israeli influence on the other. Such an understanding will give effectiveness to the U.S. role in current moves to achieve peace. The U.S. role is needed and even necessary in any serious attempt to establish peace in the Middle East. However, this role must be neutral, just, and unbiased in favor of Israel. Shultz' mission has just begun, but will it end as its predecessors?

U.S. Attack on Iranian Oil Rigs Noted

JN191429 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] It was learned from a source close to the U.S. Defense Department today that U.S. forces have attacked two Iranian oil rigs in the Arabian Gulf. The same source said this raid constitutes a retaliatory measure by the United States following the attack on the oil tanker *Sea Isle City*, which flies the U.S. flag and which was hit by an Iranian missile last Friday.

AFP has cited the American NBC television network as saying that the [U.S.] forces this morning attacked the Iranian Sasan and Rostam oil rigs approximately 100 km south of the Iranian coast. The network's sources said that the two rigs are ablaze. In a later report, *Reuter* cited Arabian Gulf shipping sources as saying that the Iranian offshore oil fields Sasan, Rostam, and Rakhsh were attacked by fighter planes at 0600 today. The sources asserted that fires broke out in the oil fields immediately after they were hit. Fires are still blazing this afternoon and clouds of smoke rose from the oil fields immediately following the attack.

U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger has said that the U.S. naval forces destroyed an Iranian offshore drilling rig in the Arabian Gulf today in reply to an attack against an oil tanker flying the U.S. flag last week. The British *Press Association* has cited shipping sources as saying that fires broke out on two Iranian oil rigs in the center of the Arabian Gulf today. The Iranian regime's news agency has admitted that U.S. naval forces launched an attack against two Iranian offshore drigging rigs in the southern Arabian Gulf this afternoon.

Further on Attack

JN191830 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] *Reuter* has cited the American ABC and CBS television networks as saying that five U.S. Navy ships sailed toward Iranian oil rigs and opened fire on them. The two television networks said the U.S. forces sustained no losses. They added that the U.S. Defense Department invited reporters to attend a press conference this evening supposedly to announce the attack.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan has described the naval attack against the Iranian oil rigs as a wise and appropriate reply to Iranian aggression as well as a legal measure within the framework of the right to self-defense. In a statement read by White House Spokesman Marlin Fitzwater, Reagan said this attack is a legal measure and falls within the framework of the right to self-defense stated in Article 51 of the UN Charter. President Reagan added that the United States stressed to the Iranian regime its desire to achieve a just end to the Iraq-Iran war and also to implement UN Security Council Resolution No 598 which calls for a comprehensive end to the war.

The U.S. defense secretary has explained the attack. He said the two Iranian oil rigs contain radar systems which monitor shipping in the Arabian Gulf. He noted that the United States selected the two oil rigs because Iran uses them to attack ships and to open fire on U.S. helicopters using small boats. Asked whether anything was left on the two oil rigs, Weinberger said nothing was left behind. He added that there was no Iranian reaction. We consider this matter as over, he said.

A spokesman for the White House this evening stated that the United States will reply to any further provocations against U.S. interests in the future. He said Iran should realize that the United States is able to protect its interests.

Reportage on Visit by PLO Chairman 'Arafat

Arrives in Baghdad 16 Oct

JN161011 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0655 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Oct (INA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Baghdad at dawn today. He was received by the comrade director and members of the RCC Arab Liberation Movements Office and 'Azzam al-Ahmad, PLO office director in Baghdad.

Meets With Tariq 'Aziz

JN171928 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1835 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Oct (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat here this evening. They discussed the recent Iranian aggressions against Iraq in particular and the situation in the Arab arena in general. The meeting was attended by Sa'dun Shakir, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command; the deputy official in charge of liberation movements in the National Command; Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces; Nuri al-Wayyis, Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary; and the director of the PLO office in Baghdad. Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Baghdad yesterday, Friday, on a visit to Iraq.

Received by Saddam Husayn

JN181334 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Oct (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. 'Arafat expressed his condolences over the victims of the treacherous Iranian aggression against the Balat al-Shuhada' school and civilians. He also voiced the Palestinian people's solidarity with their brother Iraqis in the legitimate defense of their sovereignty and security. The president expressed gratitude

for this brotherly stance. He affirmed Iraq's absolute support for the Palestinian people and their sole legitimate representative, the PLO.

They also discussed the latest developments in the Arab arena, especially current preparations to convene the forthcoming Arab summit. The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Leaves Baghdad 18 Oct

JN181808 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1755 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Oct (INA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Baghdad this evening following a visit to the country that lasted several days. Yasir 'Arafat was seen off by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Ambassador to U.S. Nizar Hamdun on Gulf War

PM161617 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 2 Oct 87 p 30

[Interview with Ambassador Nizar Hamdun by Subhi Ghandur in Washington; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] *Al-Hawadith*: How far does Iraq agree with the extent of U.S. intervention in the Gulf?

Hamdun: The United States is concerned with political participation and assistance in order to end the conflict by applying the pressure needed in the Security Council's proceedings to make Iran comply fully, and not selectively or partially, with the Council's resolution or to impose sanctions on Iran for its rejection of international will and the Security Council resolution.

This is the required U.S. role by virtue of its being a superpower and possessing international weight. This also applies to the Soviet Union and the rest of the big powers; in other words, Iraq is seeking to make these big powers more effective in international affairs to apply pressure on Iran to accept peace.

Al-Hawadith: So far the U.S. role has expressed itself in the mobilization of warships and the protection of Kuwaiti oil tankers, while Soviet-Iranian rapprochement is increasing. Will the present involvement of the big powers internationalize the Gulf conflict or will it end it?

Hamdun: The issue of internationalizing the conflict does not solely concern Iraq but the states of the region in general. The Iraq-Iran war is a threat to the security of the whole Gulf region and its states. Iranian policy also threatens all Gulf states, so Iraq is primarily concerned with a defensive war and a defensive strategy to prevent the Iranian enemy from making any gains in this regard. So it is left to the other Arab states and the whole world to search for measures which will guarantee an end to the war. If there is an attempt to bring in the major and minor powers to settle the conflict, then there is no objection to that as long as it contributes to preventing Iran from imposing its hegemony and influence on the Arab Gulf region.

Consequently, there is a positive aspect to an international military presence in the Gulf which prevents Iran from imposing its control on the region. Iraq is not responsible for the present escalation; rather, it is the other side—Iran, in other words—that advocates and insists on prolonging the war.

Al-Hawadith: What about the plan for the withdrawal of all foreign fleets from the Gulf?

Hamdun: Iraq has some reservations about this plan put forward by certain circles because the withdrawal of all foreign fleets would, at present, be tantamount to strengthening Iranian hegemony over the Gulf states. So long as there is no alternative it is not possible merely to talk about withdrawing the fleets, which would cause Iran to increase its aggressiveness and its expansionist policy. We are of the opinion that the only alternative to the fleet's presence is an end to the war, so that peace returns to the whole region and there is no longer a need for the foreign naval presence once security and stability have been reestablished. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: How do you explain the Soviet position of seeking to improve relations with Iran?

Hamdun: I do not believe that recent Soviet-Iranian relations are long term; they are instead short-term relations dictated by the immediate interests of both sides. Each side intends to fulfill certain objectives from this relationship, so I do not believe there are clear future prospects for these relations.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations

Communique No 2,880

JN191730 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Communique No 2,880 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 19 October]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces continued their combat activities last night and today, inflicting further losses on the enemies of our country, the Zionist Khomeyniites, as follows:

1. In the I Army Corps northern sector 25 scoundrels were killed and others were wounded. Six infantry positions were destroyed and two tanks were damaged.

2. Two enemy soldiers were killed, one vehicle, one infantry position, and one observation post were destroyed, and three ammunition dumps were blown up in the II Army Corps central sector.

3. Our units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah killed seven enemy personnel and destroyed four infantry positions.

4. One of the aggressors was killed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

5. Six infantry positions and one observation post were destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

6. Five enemy gunboats attempted to approach Al-'Amiq Port. The port's brave force pounded them with various types of weapons and forced them to flee toward the Iranian coast.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 19 October 1987

'Zionist-Owned' Tanker Hit

JN161810 Baghdad INA in English 1755 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] London, Oct 16, INA—The Zionist-owned oil tanker *Brazil Star* was hit by Iraqi Air Force jets off the Iranian coast on October 5, it was disclosed here today. The 184,000 tonnes vessel was among five oil tankers hit that day, the British Petroleum Argus List reported today.

Shelling Kills 177

JN181448 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1338 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] Basrə, Southern Iraq, 18 Oct (INA)—Basra has been subjected to daily Iranian shelling by long-range artillery since early September. The endless Iranian shelling is directed at residential neighborhoods, religious, scientific, and educational centers, and places of worship and social institutions.

Iranian shelling over the past 44 days has left 177 martyrs and 873 wounded—all civilians, including a large number of women, children, and elderly, the INA Basra correspondent reports. Iranian shelling has also destroyed mosques, other places of worship, homes, schools, and colleges, and damaged private property.

In the heavy shelling of Basra over the first 3 days of September, 70 civilians were martyred and 257 others were wounded, the report adds. An Iraqi official described the initial shelling of Basra as the worst the southern Iraqi city has experienced. The official said that among the places of worship that were targets of Iranian shelling were the Imam 'Abdallah ibn 'Ali Shrine, and the Al-Kabir, Al-Musawi, Al-'Arab, Al-Maqil, Al-Sayf, Al-Kindi, Al-Maqam, Al-'Abyji, Ibn 'Id, and Al-Haddadah Mosques.

Census Records Population of 16,268,316

JN181535 Baghdad INA in English 1220 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, Oct. 18, INA—President Saddam Husayn today received Dr Samal Majid Faraj, minister of planning and chairman of the higher committee for the population general census. During the audience the Iraqi planning minister submitted the results of the general population census that took place throughout Iraq yesterday. According to results, Iraq population totalled 16,278,316 people, the number of males stood at 8,364,873 and the females at 7,913,443.

Planning Minister Comments

JN171719 Baghdad INA in English 1640 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 17, INA—Iraq Minister of Planning Dr Samal Majid Faraj described the national census which was carried out throughout Iraq today as a success. In a statement announcing the census's successful conclusion the minister said hundreds of technical and counting committees have begun their work in pooling and classifying data filled by the citizens in the statistical forms which contain all needed economic, social and educational information.

As curfew went into effect since the early hours of the day, some 170,000 census takers began to collect statistical forms filled by citizens. Initial statistic show that Iraq's population is expected to exceed 16.1 million, an increase of some 30 percent over the last census carried out in 1977. Underlining the importance of the census Dr Faraj said the collected data will be used a basis for drawing-up the country's future economic and social development plans.

Shamir Political Statement to Knesset Session

TA191608 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1406 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Political statement by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at the opening of the Knesset winter session—live]

[Text] Mr Speaker, Knesset members, these days mark the first anniversary of the present government and the third anniversary of the national unity government. The 4th and last year of the national unity government is also Israel's 40th independence anniversary, a year for celebrations and for drawing a balance of achievements by the country and the people. At the outset of my speech I would like to use this podium to express gratitude for the Israeli people. These are the people who chose us as their representatives, who deposited in our hands the duties of managing their affairs and safeguarding their security and future. It is an honor for me to represent this people, who bear in their collective memory and on their bodies the scars of their history, which is fraught with suffering, sacrifice, and a joint effort—combined with a solid faith—in the vision of redemption.

In recent weeks we have followed with our eyes and hearts parents, widows, and orphans who have parted from a son, a husband, or a dear father who was the victim of murderous terrorists. Any victim in this ruthless, bloody war is a dear one, but is part of the struggle for survival and independence by the Israeli people on their land. It makes no difference whether the victim is a soldier who dies on the battlefield during a war or a civilian who dies at the hands of murderers in alleys or in orchards, in the Sharon or the Shomron areas, in Jerusalem or in Gaza.

The common motive of all those who are trying to hurt us is the desire to undermine our right to exist as a free country in this region. They will not achieve their criminal goal, either today or tomorrow. The power of will and belief which pervades our people has always been stronger than the schemes of their enemies and ill-wishers. However, since we regained our independence we have possessed the tools and the ability to deter, foil, uncover, and punish both enemies and provocateurs. Arab terror will never attain its objective. With patience, determination, and firmness we will act against it until we eliminate its ability and desire to hurt us. If the punitive measures which we have adopted thus far do not suffice, we shall begin a study and a discussion of additional measures. The security forces, which are investing all their energy to devotedly carry out the mission of defending the country and its citizens against Arab terror, deserve the gratitude and appreciation of us all.

Mr Speaker, the State of Israel has a destiny, and the people of Israel have a vision. These are not a healthy economy or the building up of security, or even the attainment of peace with our neighbors. All of these are important national tasks, but it is not for them that the state was founded, nor is it for their sake that our forefatheres prayed for generations. The highest destiny of the Jewish state is to be the homeland which will gather the majority of the Israeli people within its folds. With the inception of the state, the focus of the people's history moved from the diaspora back to Eretz Yisra'el.

Jewish history is being made here again. The thread which was disconnected nearly 2,000 years ago is being tied anew here. We are masters of our fate in Israel. We who live in Zion can well sense the revolution which has taken place in the lives of our people, and we live it day by day. Still, large segments of our people who are scattered in foreign lands do not know or feel this, or they are too removed from their roots to want to know, understand, or identify with us. We should not be passive in the face of this phenomenon. We cannot tolerate a situation in which most of the Jewish people are outside Eretz Yisra'el and their separation from us is becoming a permanent phenomenon. We must not be indifferent to the beginning of a concept which aims at granting ideological legitimization to the continued existence of most of the Jewish people in exile. The renewal of the immigration momentum is absolutely vital for us. We must enlist all forces and resources so that the call for immigration reverberates in every Jewish street in exile everywhere, gripping the conscience of every individual Jew.

At the same time, we should create the conditions for the absorption of the immigrants and their rapid and successful incorporation into the life of the state. Our preparations for the implementation of this task should encompass all economic spheres and sectors. What is no less important is the absorption of the immigrants from the spiritual and social points of view. We should open our hearts and arms to each immigrant and show him how welcome he is, that we are interested in him and in his successful absorption. I am calling on all public elements—employers, heads of institutes, and industrial plant owners—to pay special attention to the challenge of immigration and the contribution they can make to attract immigrants to Israel and facilitate their absorption.

The gathering of the exiles is the destiny and the ideal, and it is through this that the vision of generations of the Israeli people will be realized. We who live on this land, as well as those who will join us—the immigrants who have come and are still to come—should remember that the return to our land has a supreme goal: Our national revival is taking place here and it is here that we are linking up with our roots. It is here that the Jewish people can renew their original creativity and give a new meaning to the ancient message which was born here and which has since turned into a sacred asset for all nations. It is here that we became a unique people, and it is here that the spark which will become a light unto the gentiles will be kindled.

In the framework of the 40th anniversary festivities we are calling on the Jews of the diaspora to come to visit Israel, to send their children to take a course of studies or a vacation in Israel, to accept the appeal for immigration, and to seriously examine the possibility of carrying it out so as to share in our experience of Jewish life in the Jewish homeland. We will not lose sight of the hope that immigration will increase from both the developed countries and the underdeveloped ones, and that the Soviet Union's gates will open wide for the immigration of Jews.

We hope that the Soviet Government agrees with us that the absence of normal diplomatic relations is an anomaly which has not given it any advantage whatsoever. Israel is interested in the full resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries. This is not a favor but the reestablishment of an acceptable means of communications between civilized countries in the present era. The problem we have with the Soviet Union is one that concerns the roots and the survival of the State of Israel. The Jewish state was set up in order to gather Israel's exiles anew. Therefore, it is both right and just to enable the large Jewish community in the Soviet Union to realize its fundamental right to return to its homeland in Eretz Yisra'el. There is no connection and there should be no connection between the emigration of Soviet Jews, on the one hand, and political problems between the two countries and the Soviet Union's policy in the Middle East, on the other.

The Israeli Government is prepared to hold a political dialogue with the Soviet Union on Middle East problems, just as it holds talks with all countries with whom it maintains diplomatic relations. Israel recognizes the fact that the Soviet Union has legitimate interests in the Middle East, and we will be ready to exchange views with the Soviet Government, with its authorized representatives, in order to remove misunderstandings, to bring positions closer together, and to prepare the ground for true peace in the region. All this is on condition that the Soviet Union maintains normal relations with Israel and changes its position on the right of the Jewish people in the Soviet Union to return to their homeland.

Many countries, including those which disagree with us about important political issues, have supported our struggle for the right of the Soviet Jews to immigrate to Israel and for the release of the prisoners of Zion who were jailed there. All accepted and understood that what was involved was realizing one of the basic rights specified in the human rights charter and the Helsinki charter, and this is why they stood by us. It is thanks to this almost universal effort and thanks to the stubborn persistence, dedication, and courage of Jews such as Ida Nudel, Natan Scharanskiy, and many like them, that more than 170,000 Jews have immigrated to Israel from the Soviet Union, particularly in the 1970's. Today we entertain the hope that the immigration momentum will be renewed.

It should be emphasized that the struggle we are waging is not intended for rescuing individuals or obtaining gestures, but for achieving a significant change in the Soviet Union's policy on this subject. Our struggle is aimed at returning the Soviet Jews to Eretz Yisra'el. We also demand that as long as they are on Soviet soil, Jews be allowed to lead a Jewish life insofar as the Jewish faith, culture, and learning the Hebrew language are concerned.

Knesset members, the importance of the struggle for the return to their homeland of millions of Soviet Jews should not make us forget the fate of the smaller Jewish communities which are distressed, which suffer and struggle for their survival and rights. I am referring to Jewish communities in Arab countries, especially Syria, where a community of about 6,000 endures suffering and provocations, and is under lock and key, denied the right or ability to leave the place of exile.

Syria today is trying to improve its image among Western countries and prove that it is beginning to resemble a civilized country. We have appealed and are again appealing to our friends, the Western countries, the United States first and foremost, to act for the release of Syrian Jews from the siege to which they are subject, and for having them granted the right to leave their country of suffering to breathe the air of freedom. In Ethiopia more than 10,000 Jews whose families have been split are going through hell. Children miss their parents, and parents are begging for the children. We are calling on the Ethiopian Government and on countries around the world to end this heart-rending tragedy.

The State of Israel welcomes any progress made toward allaying tension between the two superpowers and toward nuclear disarmament and the reduction of nuclear and conventional weapons. All Israeli governments will support moves to this effect, both because of the blessing inherent in global peace and peace between the superpowers, and because peace removes the threat to the Jewish people dispersed among the countries of the two global blocs. From the bottom of our hearts, we hope that increasing understanding between the United States and the Soviet Union will also bring about more willingness and support on their part for holding negotiations along the same lines; namely, direct, bilateral, and face-to-face talks between Israel and its neighbors for the sake of solving the problems between them and for the sake of achieving peace in our region.

Our relations with the United States, the leader of the free world, are stable and steadfast and rightly reflect the great closeness between the two countries and the two peoples in terms of their points of view, their policies, and their search for peace. As is known, the United States helps us share heavy and extraordinary burdens. A law on aid for financing regular defense procurement and for repaying debts and interest to the U.S. Government incurred in previous years is currently on Congress'

agenda. At the same time, cooperation in the development of exclusive systems is deepening and U.S. purchases from Israeli industries are increasing.

We also appreciate the consistent support of the U.S. Government for the principle of direct peace negotiations between Israel and its neighbors. We appreciate its refusal to heed the advice of various countries and elements who have tried to persuade it to abandon this way and to exert pressures on us to accept formulas and ideas whose real purpose is to impose solutions on us that contradict our vital interests. President Reagan and Secretary of State Shultz have thus demonstrated that they remain faithful to the principle the President firmly voiced as early as in his first election campaign, when he said that with friends and allies one must talk rather than coerce, pressure, and create fait accomplis.

Secretary of State Shultz' visit to Israel in the last few days has re-illustrated this approach which has characterized our relationship with our greatest ally. This was an excellent opportunity to discuss and analyze the situation in the region, to examine the possibilities and chances for peace between us and our neighbors, and to reach the encouraging conclusion that our views and assessments follow the same line, although there are also differences of opinion on certain issues. The issues we agree upon we should turn into constructive cooperation, whereas the issues we disagree upon we should discuss as friends and allies.

Mr Speaker, the economic recovery at the end of 1986 continues this year as well. This recovery is particularly reflected in the activities of the business sector following the freeze that came in the wake of the implementation of the economic program in July 1985. The facts about the increase in exports and about investments in solid assets at the expense of private and public consumption are particularly encouraging. The level of unemployment has also decreased compared with 1986. In the last few months the deficit in our balance of trade has declined. Our foreign currency reserves amount to over $4.5 billion, but there is no doubt that the campaign to tackle the gap between imports and exports is one of the main problems ahead of us.

The positive signs of the economic policy we have been implementing for over 2 years have become very noticeable in the last few months. They attest to an increase in economic activity and to the beginning of structural changes which, if they continue, will bring about economic growth. These signs denote the beginning of the process of economic recovery. Our achievements and the progress made toward economic stability are not guaranteed, and we should not become complacent. So that these signs do not become a transitory phenomenon, we should take particular care to adhere to the budget, and we should be even more meticulous in reducing budgetary expenditures next year.

Also on the issue of wages, we must evince restraint both in the public and private sectors, because compliance with wage demands that are not coupled with increased productivity will have an adverse effect on economic stability. This policy serves the needs of our economy and the real interests of the workers. The relative curbing of the rate of inflation, which represents an achievement in itself, is no reason to rest on our laurels. We should proceed to further reduce the frequency of price hikes, or else the stability that characterized the first stage of the economic recovery, which was achieved through hard work, might be undermined. In order to continue the processes we set in motion this year to create the appropriate climate for economic growth, we must expand reforms in order to encourage work, enterprise, and investments.

We must also reduce the government's share in companies it is involved in, as part of decreasing its involvement in the economy in general. Maintaining the public's confidence in economic policy will be possible if we demonstrate to the public our determination to take courageous action lest the economy be diverted from the road to recovery. Our goal is to create the appropriate economic climate conducive to growth, prosperity, and stability. This means that we should persist in our economic efforts lest we go back to a period of inflation and deterioration.

Mr Speaker, members of the House, death on Israel's roads is an issue which the Knesset and the public at large must try to combat. In just the past 2 weeks 32 people have been killed on the roads, including 12 pedestrians and 2 bicyclists. This is a horrible phenomenon. Those figures are part of a gloomy reality which has been hovering over us. In 1986, 21,204 people were involved in road accidents, including 415 dead and 3,331 severely wounded. From January to August 1987 there were 10,119 road accidents involving casualties, compared to 9,482 during the same period last year—an increase of 6.7 percent. The number of road accidents with fatalities has increased by 17 percent. I do not believe there is nothing we can do to reduce the number of road accidents. The Cabinet recently held a serious of debates on this issue and passed various resolutions, including the allocation of funds to develop the transportation infrastructure and to make so-called dangerous roads safer.

It was also decided to launch efforts in other areas. The goverment approached all the state media and communications bodies to take action to raise public awareness. The government is closely following the issue and will strenuously proceed to implement all its resolutions. There is no limit to all the things we would like to do in order to put an end to the incidence of deaths on our roads. To our regret, also on this issue we must take budgetary constraints into consideration. Nevertheless, we will not let up. We are open to any ideas that may help us stop the killings and ensure to the extent possible

that the verse in Psalms "The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and for evermore," applies to every pedestrian and driver in Israel.

Mr Speaker, the national unity government's basic guidelines properly express the national consensus on central foreign and defense issues. The search for peace is a fundamental principle of Israel's position, and we do not have to justify or defend ourselves on this matter. Peace is such an important value and vital objective that any time is a good one for promoting and realizing it. We should not place any time limits on ourselves, and we should not voice regret for missed opportunities. There has never been and there will never be a country in this region which can sincerely claim that it stretched out its hand in peace to us and we refused to take it. I am talking about a peace that is based on agreement, tolerance, and compromise rather than a peace based on slogans and propaganda.

Peace can only be realized through direct meetings between past foes who have decided to put an end to enmity and the state of belligerence, and to build a foundation for peace through negotiations and cooperation. No outside element and no conference of foreign countries can replace direct negotiations. On the contrary, in my opinion an international conference would not bring peace but could further complicate the situation because diverse, conflicting interests would be represented there. There would also be the pressure of positions the majority of which are totally opposed to our stance. As is known, there are differences of opinion on this issue in the government, and some argue that an international conference would promote the peace process. Let us hope this dispute is settled soon so that Israel can display a united position on this issue as well.

The national consensus expressed in the national unity government's basic guidelines stipulates that we will invite our neighbors, Jordan first and foremost, to peace negotiations without any preconditions. Such negotiations would be conducted between Israel and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. We will not hold any contacts whatsoever with the murderous organization known as the PLO. In the negotiations with Jordan, Israel's position would be based on the Camp David accords.

I seize this opportunity to reiterate the call to King Husayn to come to the negotiating table in order to reach a peaceful agreement with us.

Mr Speaker, when I introduced the current government to the Knesset 1 year ago I elaborated on unity as a value, a goal, and an advantage that could help us overcome obstacles on the road to implementing governments plans and policies. This government can note several achievements to its credit: enhancing Israel's security and military strength, punishing and thwarting Arab terrorism, expanding international ties, curbing inflation, increasing the gross national product and exports, while curbing unemployment, and continuing the construction and settlement drive in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el. Only a national unity government could have realized a policy that comprises such a long list of missions.

The establishment of the national unity government was welcomed by Israel's friends throughout the world, as well as by Jewish communities in the diaspora. One of the elements of Israel's spirit and strength is its image of being a special nation that rallies around nationally agreed upon principles, a nation that is determined to fight for its views and is not deterred by either threats or enemies. From many people in this nation, from towns and villages in the center of the country or near the border, the call is being heard: Let us go ahead with national unity, let us not look for schisms and rifts in order to split, quarrel, divide, and sap our strength and might. Let us not exacerbate the current differences within the nation, between different schools of thought and ways of life. Let us expand on and enhance the things we have in common, and the entire nation will benefit. Let us moderate the tone of our arguments and be respectful of every man who lives in our midst. Let us not forget for one moment what the Bible says, that we are all members of the same people. The Jewish calendar year 5748 will be the fourth year of the national unity government. Let us wish this year, the 40th year of our independence, to be a year of unity for the Israeli people and a year of achievements for the State of Israel.

Shultz Given Mandate To Probe 'New Formula'

TA200703 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0600 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has given Secretary of State George Shultz a mandate to continue to explore the new formula Shultz presented to him on direct negotiations under U.S. and Soviet auspices. This formula gives the Soviet Union a certain, nonactive role in the political process, on condition that it resumes diplomatic relations with Israel and permits Jewish aliyah. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports:

[Begin recording] It is possible that in the past few days the prime minister has opened a crack which the international peace conference will slip through in one form or another. We should stress that Yitzhaq Shamir has not yet committed himself to any new formula. George Shultz was satisfied, however, with the results of his talks here. He now has a joint mandate, given him by Shamir and Peres, to continue to explore his plan for direct negotiations between Israel and its neighbors under limited U.S. and Soviet auspices. Jerusalem is presenting Shultz' proposal as the median between Peres' international conference and Shamir's regional conference. In any case, the term international conference, which has evoked opposition and anger, has been set aside for the time being.

Here are some of the details of the proposal: The negotiations will be based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338. The sides will be invited to the negotiations by Washington and Moscow. Palestinian representatives will join the Jordanian delegation.

Shultz promised to limit the role of the international auspices to no more than opening and closing ceremonies, and to physically divide between the international auspices and the discussions in bilateral committees. The Soviet Union's limited role in the process will be made possible only after it resumes diplomatic relations with Israel and permits the departure of Jews who want to leave.

At this point, it is impossible to define the prime minister's move as a dramatic change. Apparently Shamir does not believe that the Soviets and the Jordanians will accept Shultz' new formula and settle for auspices of a purely ceremonial nature. Shamir therefore prefers to throw the ball into their court, and it is possible that his flexibility stems from purely tactical considerations. Shamir, however, has given Shultz a rope which will keep the political process alive over the next few months. Most significantly, Shamir has greatly reduced the differences between himself and Peres.

It is also hard to ignore the change in the tone of Shamir's recent public remarks. His speech in the Knesset yesterday was marked by a moderate stance toward the Soviet Union. Shamir recognized the Soviet interests in the Middle East and the fact that it can contribute to peace in the region. This was one of the least hawkish of Shamir's speeches over the past 3 years. [end recording]

Shamir To Undergo Cataract Surgery 20 Oct

TA200738 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0730 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will undergo cataract surgery today. The operation will be conducted by Professor Zauberman at Haddassah Hospital in Jerusalem. Shamir is scheduled to return home today.

Comments on Repercussions of Stock Market Crash

Rabin on Effects on U.S. Aid

TA201050 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1030 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was asked today about the effect of the New York stock market crash on U.S. foreign aid. This is what he said:

[Begin Rabin recording] I was one of those who maintained that we are facing uncertainties stemming from the U.S. economic situation. This was one of the reasons—not the only one—which influenced my decision regarding the Lavi. I hope that the United States will overcome its economic problems, and especially that this will not harm U.S. foreign policy, which uses foreign aid as one of its effective tools. I especially hope that foreign aid to Israel will not be harmed as the result of a desire to balance the budget at the expense of foreign aid. [end recording]

Ya'aqobi Fears Ramifications

TA200847 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0830 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] We have an Isareli reaction to the collapse of the New York stock market. Economics and Planning Minister Gad Ya'aqobi believes the collapse might have serious ramifications for Israel. Ya'aqobi assesses that in due course, the fall in shares might affect the scope of U.S. aid to Israel and donations made by wealthy U.S. Jews. The crash might also harm the profitability of exports to the United States because of the devaluation of the dollar. Minister Ya'aqobi says we must not underestimate the serious crisis on the New York stock market and that we must prepare for it.

Sources Skeptical on Alleged Romanian Espionage

TA191624 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
19 Oct 87 pp A1, 2

[Text] "Romanian diplomats operating out of their embassy in Tel Aviv gathered intelligence information on Israel which was handed over to the PLO and to Arab countries," General Ion Pacape [name as published], who was head of the Romanian secret service and defected to the West, has said. According to Pacape, Romania did not follow the other East bloc countries, which severed their relations with Israel in 1967, in order to continue providing information on Israel.

Romanian intelligence also aided the PLO in gathering information used in a 1975 attempt to endanger or even assassinate King Husayn of Jordan. The Romanian defector said that the Romanian intelligence service has handed over to Husayn intelligence information on the PLO, but that the information had been provided by the PLO in order to misinform Husayn. In exchange for the "information" he received, Husayn, who did not know about the ruse, handed over to the Romanians information which his intelligence service had gathered on the PLO. This information was immediately passed on by the Romanian to PLO officials. This enabled 'Arafat's men to pinpoint the Jordanian intelligence sources in their organization. Pacape defected to the West in 1978 and since then has occasionally published details about the activities of the Romanian intelligence service.

Israeli sources received with skepticism the new "disclosures" by Romania's former secret service boss, Ion Pacape, on the espionage activities of his country in Israel for the PLO and Arab countries. These sources stressed that in 1967, when Romania decided not to sever its relations with Israel unlike the other East bloc countries, the PLO in fact did not yet exist and Yasir 'Arafat was an almost unknown person hiding out in the West Bank.

The Romanian Embassy refused to comment yesterday on Pacape's remarks to *The Los Angeles Times*. The telephone operator at the embassy said that the press attache at the embassy was on vacation until the end of the week.

[Tel Aviv *Ma'ariv* in Hebrew 19 October on page 2 carries a similar report by Refa'el Mann, adding: "Regarding the reports of espionage activities initiated at the Romanian Embassy in Tel Aviv, official sources refused to comment on these reports."]

Goren Interviewed on Situation in Territories

TA161658 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 16 Oct 87 pp 12, 13

[Interview with Shmu'el Goren, coordinator of government activities in the territories, by Alex Fishman; date and place not given]

[Text] [Fishman] There have been riots in the territories this week. A Jew was killed in Jerusalem; an Arab woman was killed in Ramallah; seven were wounded in Gaza. Is the ground shaking beneath us again?

[Goren] In my opinion one should start a little earlier, before the last week or two. We have been present in the area for 20 years, contrary to the will of the definite majority of the residents. They did not invite us. The military regime is continuing and there is no agreement on a political solution yet. Hostile elements, both outside and inside the territories, engage in instigation all the time, and this means disturbances at best and terrorism at worst. Ever since we entered the area we have experienced rising or falling waves in this respect. People may not have too good a memory, but there have been much harder periods: the smuggling of weapons; explosions in Jerusalem—a booby-trapped refrigerator, booby-trapped bicycles; shooting at traffic. Fortunately, such things are quite rare today. It would be naive to assume that terrorism could be completely stopped.

Incidents this past week originated in two centers. One was Gaza, due to the liquidation of several squads and the capture of escaped convicts. Add to this the detention of dozens of suspects as collaborators and the discovery of many weapons, and you end up with a tremor. Another center was Temple Mount. This is a very serious and vulnerable point. Anything that happens on Temple Mount influences the territories. One needs to add to this the argument in the Makhpelah Cave, of course. There were casualties unfortunately.

[Fishman] Did the activity of the security forces in Gaza not affect events on the West Bank today?

[Goren] I did not say that. It is very possible that even without one of the centers which I noted, the conflagaration would have spread. There have been cases where incidents in the West Bank affected Gaza. For instance, a few months ago two students were killed in Bi'r Zayt. They were from Khan Yunus and Gaza, and we had disturbances in Gaza which lasted for 10 days.

[Fishman] You seem to accept the current situation quite peacefully.

[Goren] God forbid. I cannot be indifferent toward any case, be it when a woman, a mother of eight children, is killed, or when a stone is thrown. Still, I would warn everybody against panic and exaggeration. Any accident in which a vehicle from the territories is involved is immediately linked to terrorist activity. It makes the headlines together with the burial of a Jew who was murdered in Jerusalem, and the two incidents are linked. One should consider matters coolly, not allowing emotions to influence considerations. I have already said too much on this subject.

[Fishman] A new kind of a terrorist wave has risen since the six Islamic Jihad people escaped from the Gaza jail in May.

[Goren] It started earlier. The Islamic Jihad organization is nothing new. Its members were involved in terrorist activity earlier. We had religious elements in Jerusalem. Reference is to radical young people who want to act immediately. The PLO has jumped on the rising tide of this wave. The Islamic Jihad is not a well-established, orderly, and hierarchical organization. There are marginal elements within it who see enlisting into the PLO ranks as a proper outlet for their feelings. The PLO uses them as manpower reserves. We had such a case in Gaza in the past when a religious body, headed by Ahmad Yasin, stocked up on arms and prepared for underground activity. Except for this case I do not know of any independent religious body that has organized for the underground. The main power base is held by the elements of Fatah, the PFLP, and Hawatimah's organization, together with their commands which are scattered in various Arab countries.

[Fishman] Nevertheless, there have been particularly daring terrorist acts in Gaza in recent months which have been linked to the Islamic Jihad.

[Goren] The investigation and interrogation of the suspects involved have not ended yet. It is surely possible that some of the bold terrorist acts which have been perpetrated in Gaza recently originate in the escaped convicts or the arms found in their possession. We will know the answers soon. We already know that Ron Tal, the Military Police officer, and civilian Jalal Juraysi were murdered by some of the Islamic Jihad people who were killed by the security forces in Gaza last week.

[Fishman] Is it possible to compare the nature of activity by the religious radicals in the territories to that of the Hizballah in southern Lebanon?

[Goren] There is no similarity whatsoever. There are fortunately no Shi'ites in the territories and you are talking of totally different matters. Here we are talking about activity by individuals. The activity of the Islamic Jihad is mainly religious, although it surely has the potential for terrorism.

[Fishman] The capture of those who escaped from the Nafha and Gaza jails is presented as a remarkable achievement. What about the cost?

[Goren] Let me tell you that any service in the world would have been boastful about such achievements. There are many things that have not been achieved, but look what happened in this case. People escaped from jail, reached Gaza, and disappeared in it. The Shin Bet began looking for them later. There are hundreds of thousands of people in Gaza, including tens of thousands of refugees, but they were nevertheless discovered. Do you doubt this achievement? A price was paid. One of the fighters was killed. But it is not every day that a service member gets killed. Some of the actions in Gaza may have been carried out by the escapees, but there are no panaceas.

[Fishman] Did the capture of four out of the six Gaza prison escapees close that case?

[Goren] Two are missing and they may be out of the area, but such cases are not closed. One should remember that the escapees relied on various collaborators. As long as we do not catch all of them, the case will not be closed.

[Fishman] It has been decided not to demolish the houses of the Islamic Jihad people who were captured in Gaza for the time being. Is there a new punitive policy?

[Goren] We do not have a new policy. It is not in every case that we demolish houses. I am definitely against demolishing houses as an outlet for feelings or for the sake of collective punishment. It is quite a rare measure and depends on the specific case in hand. Most of the population keeps away from terrorism. Most of the terrorism potential does not become a realty, as I have claimed for years now. In contrast, there is a rise in the number of workers employed in Israel. Calls for people to stage strikes are not complied with. The bridges over the Jordan River are open. Hundreds of thousands of people come here annually. Trade is thriving. There is no Green Line. Jews are circulating in the territories.

This Monday was an unusual day. I do not recall there being such a day from the point of view of disturbances in the territories for a long time. It was impossible to reach Bethlehem on Monday not due to the IDF roadblocks, but due to the thousands of Jews who reached Rachel's Tomb and blocked off the main road. The terrorist organizations knew there would be thousands of Jews there. That same day there were tens of thousands of Jews also in East Jerusalem, a day after the murdered Jew was buried. There was a great potential for attacks then but nothing happened. In Paris a year ago events were cancelled due to the fear that two loose madmen might do something. We have not canceled a single event for the last 20 years for fear of hostile terrorist activity.

[Fishman] It is a fact that there are more terrorist acts within the boundaries of the Green Line, which has disappeared according to what you said. A soldier was murdered at the Megiddo junction, near Kefar Masariq, and children were attacked in Ramat Hasharon.

[Goren] Incidents do take place. As for the soldier who was murdered near Kefar Masariq, it is not yet clear what happened there. The background to the attack on the children is also unclear. This is less than what we had in the past and much less than what we might have had.

[Fishman] Should we not adopt firmer measures in view of the recent incidents?

[Goren] What do you call firm? What are you proposing? To introduce paratroopers into Bethlehem University and kill a hundred Arabs? The Jordanians did this in Irbid a year ago and are enjoying quiet now. The Egyptians did this in Alexandria and Asyut. Can you imagine doing such a thing here? Under no circumstances. I do not think there is laxness.

We are currently witnessing a wave that will subside, I believe. In my assessment this wave is already on the decline. We should be more vigilant. We should be careful about hitchhiking within the Green Line boundaries and definitely outside them. Some 60,000 Jews live in the territories and lead very normal lives. If the terrorism potential had been fully realized, could we travel on the roads in the territories today? An Israeli alone in Gaza should take precautions. He should not go there alone or bear arms. He should not go around places where he need not be. Do Jews not travel to Gaza? Thousands do.

[Fishman] Does a soldier waiting at a hitchhiking point in Netanya have nothing to fear?

[Goren] He is safe if he adopts the necessary measures. He should be careful, carry arms, and pay attention to what is happening around him.

[Fishman] Some 10 to 15 years ago a soldier at this hitchhiking point was not troubled.

[Goren] There were much graver things. I too think that the incident involving the soldier at Megiddo was terrible, but one should consider the subject with open eyes. It would be a great mistake to impose collective punishment, not only because of moral considerations but also from the point of view of Israel's interests. We should continue to give the population all the services we can. I am glad this is the policy. I regret that we cannot do more on this issue.

[Fishman] The argument about the death penalty for terrorists was again triggered by the murder in Jerusalem. What is your opinion?

[Goren] This issue is subject to public dispute. Therefore, although I do have a clear opinion I cannot answer your question in public now.

[Fishman] The professional elements engaged in security in the territories have never recommended the death penalty. They even ruled it out.

[Goren] This is true, in fact. The professional elements assess that capital punishment will not serve the goal, but will lead to negative results rather than stop terrorism.

[Fishman] What is the nature of the policy of deportations and administrative detentions?

[Goren] We do not have a policy of deportations and administrative detentions. These are measures which are suited to specific cases. Over the last 3 years, 17 people have been expelled. Some of them left voluntarily. There are about 50 people under administrative detention. This is a helpful measure. It is a deterrent.

[Fishman] Seven residents of Gaza and 5 of the West Bank have been hurt this past week by fire from our forces in the course of demonstrations. A woman was also killed. Is the trigger not pressed all too quickly?

[Goren] I know that the security forces are doing all they can not to hurt innocent people. Unfortunately there are cases in which innocent civilians are also hurt, but this is not a policy. I do not think that anybody is trigger-happy. Beyond my regret over the harm caused to innocent people, I claim that the instigators in the area want us to hurt women and children. This serves their goal. Some in Israel are angry with me for saying this but I can prove it.

[Fishman] As the person responsible for everyday life in the territories, do you not have criticism for the Army's firing regulations?

[Goren] If I do have criticism I keep it for the people concerned. There is always room for improvement. I know that the political guidelines, the orders, and the lessons are carefully examined. People understand that hurting an innocent civilian causes us damage beyond the moral and legal problems. Furthermore, the commanders in the area have problems. The soldiers are stoned and insulted yet they do not respond. This would not happen in any other army in the world. They would shoot if they were in danger. I went to have a personal talk with the murderer of our soldier at the Megiddo junction to understand what went on. I sat with him for nearly an hour. The soldier could have opened fire at him, but when he noticed he was dealing with a madman he did not do this. It is easy to create a situation in which we prevent one or two incidents but create terrible tension that ultimately results in more actions against us. On Monday a border policeman fired at a woman. This is being investigated. It is not clear why arms were fired. If the firing was not at all justified, necessary and firm measures should be adopted. The IDF is doing this.

[Fishman] A senior military element accounted for some of the incidents in Gaza in recent months by pointing to the frustration of the local population, which does not see a solution to the problem there. According to this theory the disturbances and terrorist acts will increase.

[Goren] There has been 20 years now of warnings about all sorts of phenomena. Only 3 to 4 years ago the media warned us against Lebanonization in the territories: roadside bombs, Khomeynism. Where is all this? We managed to replace all the mayors. None of them is a PLO man, and they all function. We have 17,000 administration workers and none of them has resigned. We set up a Cairo-Amman Bank which is one of a kind in the world. It has operated for less than a year but it already boasts deposits of 16 million dinars. I wish our banks fared the same.

There are 25 municipal councils which operate well; dozens of rural councils; 300,000 refugees in Gaza; educational, welfare, and employment services, almost without any assistance from the government offices; projects to the tune of tens of millions of dollars; and visits by Jordanian officials to the territories. In my opinion, when talk of a solution begins, tension in the territories increases tenfold because it will never be possible to reach a solution that is acceptable to all parties. If only Hawatimah and Habash are not satisfied, we will have a real hullabaloo. So it is true that the current situation is not natural, but the question is what alternative do we have? I am not referring here to the political problem but to the problem of the daily maintenance of the territories.

[Fishman] There is a rise in terrorist activity through local organizing which is not linked with the terrorist organizations.

[Goren] This is being handled. For instance, the murderer of the soldier at Megiddo was traveling with a friend to meet a Jew on financial matters. It was while going to do so that he stabbed the soldier. His friend did not even know that he intended to do this. He decided near the time of the actual attack. He also knew he had no chance to escape. They use knives because they do not have weapons, since we curb any attempt for them to organize on a regional basis. We all remember what happened at the time the National Guidance Committee existed. Despite all that happens occasionally, let it not be worse.

[Fishman] Brigadier General Efrayim Sene, head of the Civilian Administration in Judaea and Samaria, announced his resignation while you were abroad. It was published that he retired against the background of disagreements with you on matters of policy in the territories.

[Goren] Ask Efrayim Sene. Inaccuracies were written in the papers, and I do not want to enter an argument here.

[Fishman] The new head of the Civilian Administration is Brigadier General Yehoshu'a Erez. Is it only a person that is changing, or policy as well?

[Goren] Entering this post is a man who has done extraordinary work in Gaza, and he has done it quietly. I hope he will succeed in Judaea and Samaria as he did there. This will be everyone's success. He is an experienced officer. This is an extraordinarily good choice. As for policymaking, there is no doubt that a man has influence, but he does not determine it. You should understand that policy in the territories is not determined on my level or below it. I do not determine policy. Therefore, there could not have been a dispute over policy in the territories. It is the political level that determines the policy. I do not initiate policy either. I can influence style and give guidance, but not on basic matters.

It was published that we had a dispute, as it were, in the wake of my policy regarding the Herodion drilling. Bullshit. All other stories on this were bullshit. Besides, do I have to agree to everything that everyone wants? The head of the Civilian Administration and the coordinator of government activities in the territories should carry things out. Their test is in the successful implementation of policy. Do you really think that the defense minister is not knowledgeable about everything that takes place in the area? Had I deviated from policy, especially with regard to such sensitive matters as those for which I am responsible, do you imagine that he would not have talked to me, intervened, or dismissed me?

Commentary Examines Nature of Islamic Jihad

TA181554 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 18 Oct 87 p 18

[Commentary by 'Uzi Mahanaymi: "Jihad Now"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The Islamic Jihad, 50 members of which were arrested in Gaza last week, is a battle cry more than the name of an organization. Perhaps it is a temporary name. In 1981 the group of several hundred youths which started forming this around several shaykhs in the mosques of the Gaza Strip, is better known pn the region by other, more popular names: "The Khomeyniists," "The Independents' Movement," and "The Islamic Gang." [passage omitted]

In general, it can be said that the men organized under the name "Islamic Jihad" who set out to kill Jews with knives, clubs, or guns are young religious Muslims who, unlike most of their religious friends, are sick and tired of waiting for the day of judgment when they set out on a jihad against the Jewish infidels. In line with the Khomeyniistic model, they want the jihad here and now.

The members of "Jihad Now," if you will, came out of the "Mujama'a' al-Islami," a legal Muslim fundamentalist organization that follows in the footsteps of the "Muslim Brotherhood," a movement of religious fanatics that was founded in Egypt in 1929 and called for a return to basic Islam. Almost all the political leaders in the Middle East are now suffering the consequences of its foundation. [passage omitted]

All these groups are registered as non-profit organizations and are active in all walks of life in the Gaza Strip. This activity starts in kindergartens, continues in elementary schools, and ends with Al-Azhar College which is the only college in the Gaza Strip. This college, a sort of younger sister of the well-known Egyptian university, is the source of inspiration for religious Muslim youths.

The legal Muslim organizations in the territories are the bases from which the extremist Islamic Jihad youths who carry the banner of "One hand will hold the Koran and the other will hold the sword" set out.

The spiritual leader of the Islamic Jihad is Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Awdah, a lecturer at Al-Azhar College, while its political leader (who has been in and out of prison) is Dr Fathi Shaqaqi, a pharmacist from Rafah.

The "Jihad Now" men, contrary to the members of the religious organizations, reject the concept that the Islamic revolution is a gradual and protracted process. They want jihad now and they have no qualms about using any means to arrive at this objective.

Islamic Jihad has a public journal named *Al-Tali'ah al-Islamiyah* which is published in London, and a secret magazine named *Al-Biyan* which is distributed in the territories. The book to be studied by Islamic Jihad members, in addition to the Koran, is *Khomeyni al-Hal al-Wahid*, or *Khomeyni Is the Only Solution*.

Being a terrorist organization operating here and now, Islamic Jihad combines Islamic fanaticism with Palestinian nationalism. Usually, this would be an impossible combination because Islamic fundamentalism does not accept Arab nationalism. In the case of Islamic Jihad, however, Palestinian nationalism plays an important role stemming from the sense of urgency of the organization's activities on the way to jihad, the annihilation of the Zionist state, and the establishment of a religious Palestinian state on its ruins.

Despite the rise in the popularity of Muslim extremists, the extremist organizations—especially Islamic Jihad—do not control the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Sympathies lie with 'Arafat's Fatah, with the secular PLO. [passage omitted]

Defense Establishment Cancels Lavi-3 Prototype

TA192039 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 19 Oct 87 p 2

[Report by military correspondent Tali Zelinger]

[Text] Contrary to a previous decision, it was recently decided by the defense establishment to cancel the production of the Lavi-3 prototype, due to financial difficulties.

One month ago the defense minister and the Lavi dismantling team, who were looking for new channels for the development and manufacture of the plane's systems for Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI], decided to continue development of the plane. This would have enabled the production of the Lavi-3 prototype carrying all the avionics systems the IAI had decided to continue developing. The intention was to turn the Lavi-3 prototype into an aircraft on which the avionics systems would be tested and exhibited.

It has now been learned that his plan was canceled and it was decided to mount the planned systems on the two existing Lavi prototypes instead.

Some $25 million have been invested so far in the development of the avionics systems.

U.S. Strike Confirms Need To Implement 598

JN200810 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
20 Oct 87 p 1

[Editorial: "Resolution 598 Is the Only Solution"]

[Text] The dramatic developments that took place in the Gulf area yesterday could be considered a significant manifestation of the failure to implement Resolution 598. This resolution is the only hope to logically end a long war whose geographic expanse has spread and whose dangers have grown beyond where the war erupted.

Ever since the issuance of this important and firm resolution, the UN Security Council, like the international community, has faced a very critical situation in its capacity as an international authority whose resolutions should be implemented immediately, followed by political efforts to end this war and its causes and to put the final touches to peace.

The international community has no choice but to impose sanctions on the aggressor as unequivocally stipulated in Resolution 598. Condemnations and warnings have been directed at Iran for continuously exacerbating the situation, carrying out aggression, and causing confusion in major international organizations due to the failure to implement this resolution.

Inasmuch as it strongly adheres to implementing this carefully studied Security Council resolution, the world is also concerned about protecting this resolution from any unforeseen surprises as a result of the heavy military presence.

The U.S. retaliation for Iran's aggression against the U.S.-flagged Kuwaiti oil tanker has once again confirmed the need to fully adhere to Resolution 598 and to implement its clauses immediately. This is because there is no other way to end the Gulf war.

'Total Solidarity' With Kuwait Expressed

JN191936 Amman Television Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, this evening telephoned Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwait's crown prince and prime minister, to express his concern over Iran's aggression against Kuwaiti territorial waters. Crown Prince Hasan voiced Jordan's total solidarity with Kuwait in its defense of its sovereignty and reiterated Jordan's condemnation of Iran's attempts to undermine peace and stability in the Gulf region.

Minister Comments on Reported Shultz Proposal

JN191823 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1730 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] In Amman, Jordanian Minister of Information Muhammad al-Khatib today announced that Jordan rejects proposals to replace the international Middle East peace conference with another framework for negotiations. Al-Khatib said that neither the United States nor Israel has the right to decide on or retreat from the international conference.

The Jordanian minister of information was commenting on reports from Israel stating that during his talks with Yitzhaq Shamir and Shim'on Peres, Shultz may have proposed relinquishing the international conference and replacing it with another framework in which the Soviet Union's role is reduced.

SAWT AL-SHA'B Views Shultz Visit to Israel

JN191051 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
19 Oct 87 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "Shultz' Statements—What is New?"]

[Text] What is new about the U.S. secretary of state's visit to Israel? How can the secretary of state end the political tug-of-war between the ruling Likud and Labor parties in the coalition, parties that displayed a great difference over the idea of an international peace conference?

Can Shultz criticize the intransigent and rejectionist Israeli stand on the peace process' reactivation other than by saying "Those who refuse to explore new ideas or even reconsider old ones should present something different as an alternative to the existing situation"?

Shultz' tone may be new in dealing with the ally, but it loses its meaning when he says both that obstacles to peace are not Israel's work and that Israel should play a vanguard role in overcoming the impasse, contending that he who does not make a move does not help peace prospects.

Shultz did not hit the truth when he viewed Israel from the perspective of an ally. He did not perceive reality although it was explained to him more than once and although he examined it on more than one occasion. The U.S. stand remained the same. Therefore, the Israeli stand remained the same.

If Shultz' tour is intended to reactivate the peace process and to extricate it from its deadlock, then the United States must write the most important scenes of this scenario away from the Israeli theater. Israel is still presenting its constant and traditional shows on the peace process without trying to add anything new.

Israel makes and insists on a peace deadlock. It also wastes available prospects to overcome it because it believes that peace is contradictory to its leanings, thoughts, and plans. It also believes that any step in this direction will make it lose its ability to adhere to its intransigent and aggressive stands.

U.S. policy towards the Middle East question should get out of the Israeli perspective; it should be removed from the illusion that Israel's security is threatened and that this can only be preserved by more weapons and by keeping Israel in the trenches of aggression, particularly since the United States knows before others that the Arab peace efforts are clear and have been proven more than once. These efforts were consolidated through the Arab leaders' call for accepting UN Security Council Resolution 242 and their call for an international Middle East peace conference to be attended by the five large states, the parties to the conflict, and any other country concerned.

The Arab stand calls for peace. The convergence of the U.S. viewpoint with the Israeli one is the philosphical foundation for the U.S. blackout of the Arab stand. This convergence occurs on matters that should not continue without creating new developments that make the United States reconsider its support for Israel. These developments should also enable it to pressure Israel in a way that transcends useless initial appeals or blame.

Al-Majali Gives Summit Invitations, Returns

JN171938 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] The envoy of His Majesty King Husayn, Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Majali, returned home this evening after delivering messages from his majesty the king to Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, and Mauritanian President Maaouya Ould Taya inviting them to attend the extraordinary Arab summit conference scheduled to open in Amman on 8 November. The deputy premier said the three leaders have voiced their keenness to take part in the summit. He said they voiced their appreciation of his majesty's efforts to bolster Arab solidarity and tackle all problems impeding pan-Arab action.

Armed Forces Chief Receives UK Counterpart

JN191145 Amman Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Commander in Chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces Field Marshal Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir received in his office today visiting Chief of the General Staff of the British Armed Forces General Sir Nigel Bagnall. Gen Nigel [Bagnall] was briefed on the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

King Arrives in Finland on State Visit

For coverage of King Husayn's visit to Finland, including his statements on a Middle East peace conference and talks with Finnish President Mauno Koivisto, please refer to the Nordic Countries section of the 15 October West Europe *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Revenge Plan To Kill U.S. Hostages Revealed

JN200928 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic
17 Oct 87 p 13

[Text] A ranking Lebanese source said he has received a report from his security organs that the captors of the U.S. hostages in Beirut may soon kill one of their hostages as an indirect reply to the U.S. Navy's sinking of four Iranian gunboats in the Gulf last week.

According to the report, the source added, the captors may begin to liquidate the hostages one after another if the Western military pressure against Iran in the region intensifies. The source indicated that he had communicated this information to the ambassadors of the five big powers accredited to Lebanon.

Al-Husayni Elected Chamber of Deputies Speaker

NC201159 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1115 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Husayn al-Husayni has been reelected speaker of the Chamber of Deputies by a majority of 51 votes. Dr Albert Mukhaybir was reelected as deputy speaker by a majority of 59 votes.

Deputies Salih al-Khayr and Tariq Habashi have been elected secretaries while Deputies Subhi Yaghi, Ra'if Samara, and Melkon Eblighatian were elected commissioners. [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni Acceptance Speech

NC201313 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1005 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Speech by Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni following his reelection for a new term during a parliamentary session held at Al-Mansur Palace in Beirut—live]

[Excerpts] Dear colleagues, permit me first to express my profound gratitude for your confidence and then to renew my pledge to preserve the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies as a united, national, legitimate institution.

Dear colleagues, this chamber has been subjected to various types of campaigns this year. None of you is unaware that these various campaigns by various people were undertaken with the object of disintegrating the state by obstructing the chamber's role. [passage omitted]

We confronted all these campaigns. I was their direct target in my capacity as speaker of this chamber. I kept silent about the personal slanders, choosing to persevere in preserving the Chamber of Deputies and ensuring the continuation of its function as the embodiment of the national will and in safeguarding the other legitimate civil and military institutions. [passage omitted]

It is the duty of the Chamber of Deputies to contribute to the liberation of the national will. This could, perhaps, be brought about by explaining the basis of national reconciliation, imposing the legitimate authority and eliminating illegitimate forces, and ensuring that the various authorities return to their duties and cooperate fully.

Dear colleagues, there is nothing vague, requiring further interpretation and justification, about the Lebanese people's reconciliation. The unity of Lebanon—its land, people, and institutions—has become a fact. It is no longer a slogan to be reiterated. Indeed, those who sought partition by their deeds and words are now submitting, even if only by their words, to the national will. The sovereignty of Lebanon at home and abroad is no longer a mere slogan. It has become a real issue, and we are paying attention to the conditions for it and seeking to provide them. The first condition is the acknowledgement of the state's authority over all communities, and the second condition is the domestic unity on which our independence depends. [applause]

As for the relationship between religion and the state, I do not believe that any reasonable person would want to impose a special creed on the Lebanese state. [applause] I do not believe that anyone will seek to deny any of the existing relations between the religion and state in Lebanon or call for a conflict between them. Harmony between religion and state is dictated by the composition of our society and is indeed advocated by our spiritual affiliations. [passage omitted]

No Lebanese wants to be described as sectarian. Christians and Muslims both now agree that it is necessary to abolish sectarianism. [passage omitted]

Past experience has proved that partnership in power is not a factional demand but something to which the Lebanese aspire. It is not a demand confined to the larger communities alone. It is shared by the small ones. It is not confined to particular regions and to a dynamic generation rather than an experienced generation. It is not confined to the poor rather than the rich. It does not merely reflect the wishes of society without taking into account the requirements of the state. This is the first fact of partnership. The second is that the expansion of this partnership cannot take place regardless of the strength of the central government if we want the state to survive. The third fact is that the strength of central government does not depend on the strength of an individual but on that of the institution. These three requirements are to be found in the executive power. This power is vested in the Cabinet which is headed by the president of the Republic. They are also to be found in an administrative system which incorporates extensive decentralization, ensuring the widest partnership in government and administration within the framework of the unity of land, people, and institutions and under the aegis of a strong central authority. [passage omitted]

The unanimity to strengthen the legislative authority so that it may fully carry out its role needs no clarification. There is unanimity on the need to stabilize the presidency, fill the vacant seats in order to have a full complement of members, apply the rule of equal representation of Muslims and Christians, and agree on the formulation of a new election law which, in defining constituencies and election regulations, would take into account the rules guaranteeing the country's unity, coexistence, and correct and effective political representation.

The election of the president of the Republic, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, and prime minister by the Chamber of Deputies guarantees that they are chosen by the constitutional institutions and ensures that political competition takes place among the various communities and tendencies. Moreover, these choices will then be made by an institution representing the national will.

The Lebanese people's experience has led them to agree to the setting up of two constitutional institutions to guarantee that both officials and citizens submit to the supremacy of the law and ensure that the work of the executive and legislative powers coincides with the facts of coexistence and of the basic human rights in Lebanon as stipulated in the Constitution. These two institutions are a higher council to which presidents, prime ministers, and ministers would be answerable, and a constitutional court for interpreting the Constitution, ensuring that the laws accord with the Constitution, and examining all disputes and contests in the parliamentary presidential elections.

There is unanimity that the free economy system is the appropriate system to safeguard the livelihood of the Lebanese people and their sources of income. [passage omitted]

There is agreement that the Army should submit to the civil authority. The system of rule in Lebanon is a civilian one. There is also agreement to reunite, reorganize, and develop the Army so that it may be able to exercise its national role in defending the country and people. It is the prevailing opinion that the Cabinet should decide whether to deploy the Army for internal security tasks and that such decisions should be subject to limitations in terms of the duration and nature of the action.

Dear colleagues, these are the major elements of internal reconciliation. I have presented a picture of unanimity on these matters. I have no doubt that this picture has been visible to a greater or lesser extent in the minds of all of us. This picture of reconciliation, we feel, is a big factor in reviving hopes and activating the national will toward ending the war and establishing what is right regarding Lebanon's identity and its Arab affiliation, and regarding the distinguished relations based on fraternity, joint interests, and common history, which must be established between Lebanon and its closest sister, Syria.

National unity based on reconciliation and relations of this kind is the appropriate way to confront the tasks of ending the war and reconstructing the state. This domestic unity and these fraternal relations must form the basis for confronting the Israeli enemy, opposing his occupation, and foiling his plans to fragment Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Let us work for the implementation of the decisions taken in order to realize the Lebanese people's aspirations for freedom, equality, and a dignified life. My confidence in Lebanon is still boundless. Long life to you and to Lebanon.

Syria Backs Al-Husayni

NC192204 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] The Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation has reported that Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas visited West Beirut yesterday, accompanied by Major General Sa'id Bayraqdar, Staff Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, and Brigadier General [name indistinct]. Upon their arrival they went to the Syrian Command Headquarters in 'Aramun, where they met with Colonel 'Ali Hammud. They then went to the home of Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and communicated to him a Syrian message to the effect that Damascus has used its influence to see that he is reelected speaker for a fourth term.

Bayraqdar and Kan'an then went to the home of Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din [leader of the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council] giving him the same message. They then visited Minister Nabih Birri and acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss.

Bayraqdar and Kan'an then returned to the Syrian Command Headquarters in 'Aramun. From there, Kan'an telephoned Deputy Yusuf Hammud and asked him, on behalf of Syria, to withdraw his nomination for the post, which Hammud did.

Al-Huss Receives Soviet Ambassador 20 Oct

NC201209 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss met with Soviet Ambassador in Beirut Vasiliy Kolotusha at 1000 today. Following the meeting, Kolotusha said: Our discussion with Al-Huss focused on the current situation and some issues on the agenda of the UN regular session.

PSP Condemns U.S. 'Onslaught' Against Iran

NC201512 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Statement issued by the PSP Political Bureau following a meeting chaired by party leader Walid Junblatt on 20 October]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The PSP Political Bureau reviewed the political situation in the region in general and the U.S. imperialist onslaught on the Gulf in particular. It considers the latest U.S. aggression against Iran

to be the start of a dangerous stage in U.S. attempts to exercise direct control in the region.

The PSP denounces and strongly condemns U.S. hostile actions against Iran. It warns of the dangers the U.S. presence in the Gulf poses to the interests, security, and sovereignty of all countries in the region. The party calls on all Arab and Islamic forces to confront this U.S. plan and to see that all Western fleets are removed from the Gulf region for the sake of maintaining security and peace and avoiding a long and destructive war, which the United States is seeking in order to impose its hegemony.

The danger of a war similar to Vietnam has become not only a possibility but has been put into action by the forces of U.S. aggression and its Western allies. We call on all forces working for peace in the region and the world to condemn this blatant U.S. aggression and the increasing U.S. terrorist role. We ask them to work with all their resources to prevent the United States from achieving its purposes and prevent its involvement in a comprehensive war whose consequences would be much greater than those of the Vietnam war. [passage omitted]

DPRK Diplomat Reportedly Kidnapped 19 Oct

NC191748 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Under so-called Syrian security in West Beirut, four gunmen this afternoon kidnapped the press attache of the North Korean Embassy on Sultan Ibrahim Restaurant Road in Bi'r Hasan. The attache was driving his Fiat 132, bearing diplomatic registration plate number 6-119. The gunmen took him and his companion to an unknown destination.

VOL Refutes Report

NC191931 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Four gunmen stopped Han Chol-kum, cultural secretary at the DPRK Embassy, in Bi'r Hasan and, after making him and his driver (Sun On-Hak) get out of their Fiat car, stole the car.

Patriarch Sfayr Leaves Rome for Moscow Visit

NC201228 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr left Rome for Moscow at 1100 today in response to an official invitation by the patriarch of Moscow. Moscow's patriarch will host a dinner this evening in honor of Patriarch Sfayr.

Amal Denounces World Islamic League Statement

NC191843 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] In a statement issued by its Information Bureau, the Amal Movement has denounced a statement issued by the World Islamic League, maintaining that it is divisive and threatens the unity of the Islamic world, rather than enhancing it.

The Movement affirmed that the League's statement cannot annul the fact that Imam Khomeyni is the imam of the ummah and that his policy is based on the holy Koran. The Amal Movement, therefore, calls on the Muslim ulema to pay attention to Muslim issues, foremost among them the usurped holy places in occupied Palestine and support for the mujahidin in Lebanon trying to regain occupied Islamic lands, particularly their brothers in religion in patient and steadfast southern Lebanon.

Amal Supports Teachers' Strike To Begin 20 Oct

NC192216 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Excerpt] The private school teachers' union has reaffirmed its decision to call an indefinite strike tomorrow, Tuesday. It called on all teachers to observe the strike in a civilized manner and urged the Chamber of Deputies to discuss and approve the teachers' demands after election of a speaker tomorrow.

Following an extraordinary meeting under the chairmanship of Minister Nabih Birri, the Amal Movement's educational bureau has called for a 2-day strike and a return to work by all educational staff Thursday morning.

In his capacity as education minister, acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss today issued a statement appealing to the teachers to consider Lebanon's tenuous circumstances and forego a strike. [passage omitted]

Radio Notes U.S. 'Aggression' Against Iran

JN191601 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] The Arabian Gulf—The United States carried out a new aggression against Iran early today by attacking and setting on fire two offshore oil rigs. A source close to the U.S. Pentagon has admitted that U.S. forces attacked two oil rigs in the Arabian Gulf. An Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman had declared that any aggression by the United States against Iran means the beginning of a wide conflagration in the Gulf region. He asserted that the United States wants to set the region on fire to achieve its expansionist ambitions and aims. The spokesman added that the U.S. military presence in the area has heightened tension and is not achieving security or stability.

The U.S. paper *Philadelphia Enquirer* has revealed that three U.S. warships have taken up positions in the Arabian Gulf in preparation for an attack on Iran once the Reagan Administration gives the order. Citing the same paper, TASS reports that Pentagon officials have prepared a list of possible targets on Iranian territory.

Papers Criticize Attack

JN200754 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Alliances Exposed by the U.S. Aggression," the newspaper *Al-Ba'th* says: The United States has declared its stand, which it always sought to conceal, and announced its participation in the Iraqi regime's unjust war clearly and frankly. The U.S. raids on Iran make us recall the similar raids carried out by U.S. planes against the Lebanese people. Anyone to whom the United States is hostile is right regardless of U.S. pretexts or justifications. This proves the soundness of the Syrian stand toward the Gulf war. Syria has always stressed that this war is being carried out on behalf of the United States and that the one who ignited this war belongs to the U.S. reserves in the Arab region.

While claiming that the aggression was retaliation for the sake of its dignity, the United States seeks to conceal its stand and position, otherwise why did the Iraqi regime receive a $1 billion loan from the United States, in addition to the tens of billions of Western aid? We leave the answer to this question to everyone who has eyes and insight because therein lies the answer. The alliance between the United States and the Iraqi regime has been in effect since the Iraqi executioner plotted against the unity charter it signed with Syria.

And now, after the United States has exposed all secrets and revealed its intentions and true stand, we can say that the Gulf war will continue and its dangers will be more serious. Consequently, the Arabs will be the only side affected by this war by seeking U.S. protection. The United States does not care at all for Arab security. Moreover, it does not care about turning the Arab region into a field for war or nuclear bombardment. What draws our attention is that some Arabs are deceived and still ignore the true nature of the U.S. game. The best proof of this is U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' tour of the region. The U.S. secretary considers peace in the region legal for Israel and taboo for the Arabs. This is after his statement that the Israeli force is a guarantee for peace in the Middle East.

Here, we should ask: Why did the U.S. secretary's tour take place? The answer was given by George Shultz himself when he said: I have discussed the Gulf issue with the Israeli officials and our viewpoints were identical. I also discussed the same issue with the Egyptian leaders and our viewpoints were identical. This means that the United States was able to place Israel among the Arabs who are involved in the Gulf war. This is the aim of U.S. diplomacy and the coming days will provide more documented evidence of this fact.

The U.S. involvement in the Gulf war means that Israel is involved in this war whether through direct participation in the war or through placing the Arab East between the jaws of U.S.-Israeli pliers. Thus, the issue of peace which Shultz claimed he came for is in fact a tour for preparing to impose Israeli conditions on the Arabs, whether through besieging them with aggressions or through the alliances imposed by U.S. diplomacy among Arab sides and Israel.

Al-Thawrah writes on the same subject, saying: The U.S. aggression on the Iranian oil platforms proves that the United States is not a qualified mediator or a neutral international side which seeks to achieve peace and security in the Gulf region. This is because these aggressive plans reflect the distinguished U.S. diplomacy in this part of the world and other sensitive regions. It seems that the U.S. Administration is ignoring the possibility of expanding the Gulf war and its threat to peace and security in the whole world. This shows the dangers of the U.S. policy of aggression and its consequences, not only on the region but on the whole world.

The United States, which cannot guarantee the consequences of its aggressive policy in the region, should take into consideration the dangers of dragging the world into a fatal confrontation which begins with the Gulf region and which will spread to put the world on the brink of an abyss.

Further on Visit by Iranian Prime Minister

Visits Qunaytirah

LD191353 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, who is heading a high-ranking delegation on a visit to Syria, this morning paid homage to the holy shrine of His Excellency Zaynab. He then left for Qunaytirah. On arrival in

that liberated town, which was wrecked by the regime occupying Jerusalem, the prime minister inspected the honor guard. He then went to the town's security center. The Qunaytirah governor welcomed him and gave a background on the occupation of the town in 1967 and its liberation by Syria in 1973. He said: Forces of the regime occupying Jerusalem completely destroyed this town. This shows the grudge that Israel, the United States, and Britain hold against the Arab ummah. Rebuilding has now begun. Development is the beginning of freedom.

The prime minister said: You put the fight against Israel ahead of that against the United States. Because Israel is a tool for the implementation of U.S. plots, that is correct. Today, there is no greater enemy of the Islamic ummah than the United States. We value your fight against Israel. We hope that all Muslims will strive alongside you for the liberation of all the occupied lands.

Mr Musavi added: We understand Qunaytirah's fate. Another of the United States' lackeys has destroyed our cities in the same manner. We consider the slogan about the liberation of Palestine a strategic plan and we stand by you.

Then the prime minister inspected the ruins in Qunaytirah and planted a tree as a sign of the town's development. Finally, the prime minister laid a bouquet of flowers at the shrine of the martyrs of Qunaytirah to pay his respects.

Received by Al-Asad

JN191151 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] At 1200 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi and his delegation comprising Mohsen Rafiqdust, minister of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps; Ali Reza Mo'ayeri, deputy prime minister for political affairs; Hamid Mirzadeh, deputy prime minister for executive affairs; 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, deputy foreign minister, Hojjat ol-Eslam Marveh Samavarchi, head of the foreign relations committee of the Islamic Revolutionary Council; and a number of senior officials. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm and Iran's ambassador in Damascus.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad this morning. The meeting was attended by Diya'llah al-Fattal, assistant foreign minister, and Hoseyn Lavasani, political director at the Iranian Foreign Ministry. They discussed a number of issues of mutual interest.

Meets With Al-Shar'

LD191607 Tehran IRNA in English 1445 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Damascus, Oct. 19, IRNA—U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf is aimed at pressuring Iran to end the Iraqi-imposed war to the imperialists' benefit, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said here Monday. Al-Shar' made the remark in a meeting with visiting Iranian Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi during which the latter thanked Syria for its stance towards the Islamic revolution.

Noting that Iraqi ruler Saddam (Husayn) instigated by the U.S. and Arab reactionaries imposed the war on Iran, Al-Shar' termed the U.S. military presence in the region as an attempt to help the Iraqi regime. "But Iran is certainly able to counter U.S. plots and it is Washington that will wither under Iran's blows," added Al-Shar'. Musavi arrived in Damascus Sunday.

Meets with PNSF Group

JN191901 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] In Damascus, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad today held talks with Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi on the situation in the Gulf and Syrian-Iranian relations. In addition to Musavi, the Iranian delegation, which arrived in Damascus yesterday, included Mohsen Rafiqdust, minister of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps; 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri, deputy prime minister for political and executive affairs; 'Ali Besharati, deputy foreign minister; and Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam. On the Syrian side the talks were attended by Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm.

During the visit, the Iranian prime minister met with a PNSF delegation that included Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah], Khalid al-Fahum, 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, Talal Naji, and Muhammad Khalifah.

The PNSF has condemned the U.S. military concentration in the Gulf. According to Damascus sources, Musavi praised the PNSF stand in support of Iran and affirmed Iran's support for the Palestinian revolution represented by the PNSF.

Warns of 'Appropriate Response'

NC200650 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] In continuation of his visit to Syria, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi met with the ulema and Muslim clerics of Lebanon and discussed various issues, including the decisive battle against the usurper Israeli regime. According to IRNA, in this meeting, which was attended by a large number of Lebanese Sunni and Shi'ite clerics and some prominent Islamic personages of the country, the prime minister paid tributes to the mujahidin and the resistant Muslims of Lebanon in their

struggle against the Zionist enemy. He stressed the need to bring the country (?to war) as the only way to liberate the people from the bonds of those seeking to impose their domination.

Mr Musavi and his entourage attended a dinner reception that was held in his honor and which was attended by ulema and prominent Lebanese and Palestinian personalities as well as a large number of families of Lebanese martyrs. After an anthem was played by students of the (?military) school in Syria, one of the Lebanese clerics addressed the reception and said: We have the same (?spirit) and [words indistinct] we should resist all domination.

Our prime minister also spoke at these ceremonies. He said, among other things: The Islamic revolution was born of the slogans of liberating Jerusalem. These slogans embody a return to Islamic values and the realization of great Islamic ideals. This is what our government and people (?stand for). The people and our revolution stand alongside the people of Syria and Lebanon and are all believers in the same trench and consider their destiny as one.

The prime minister added: With its attack today on the Iranian oil platform, which was of no military importance, the United States has taken a new step in escalating tension with the Islamic Republic of Iran. With this [words indistinct], it cannot daunt a nation which has devoted everything to the service of Islam and [words indistinct] to the United Nations. The superpowers' abuse of the United Nations has been seen in the past and has been especially noticeable in the defense of Israel.

What I wish to stress in this regard is that the Islamic Republic of Iran will give an appropriate response to this aggression, as our movement is for the sake of Islam and its results are always considered a triumph.

Mr Musavi added: The United States is a foreigner to the region and to the Islamic ummah. We have a joint mission with the Islamic countries—and (?with) the assistance of the people of Syria and Lebanon—to destroy the U.S. base in the region, that is, despotic Israel. We will continue on our path.

Holds News Conference

LD201215 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] This morning, following the latest round of discussions with the Syrian prime minister, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi took part in a press conference with domestic and foreign reporters in Damascus. In answer to a question put by the *Reuter* correspondent about the reaction of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the overt U.S. aggression against the Iranian oil platforms, the prime minister said that the Americans have sent us a message saying that this is the last time. We will not strike you and you should not strike us. However, our policy is clear and under no circumstances can we remain silent regarding an attack which has been launched on us.

The prime minister emphasized: The U.S. attack is a direct attack against our sovereignty and we will give an appropriate response to this U.S. act.

Regarding the issue of the Persian Gulf, Musavi said: Some countries are more realistic, but some Persian Gulf littoral states, knowingly or unknowingly, have sided with Saddam. We have announced that if they remain neutral in the war we will have good relations with them.

In response to the [words indistinct] correspondent saying that it has been proposed that a force under the UN flag should replace foreign fleets and Resolution 598 should be implemented, the prime minister said: We will not allow the export of our oil to be subject to limitations while the flow of oil is continued by the countries which are siding with Saddam. Regarding our options, our policy is that either security belongs to all or only to the friends of the United States and Iraq. [sentence as heard] We have announced that the security of the Persian Gulf is indivisible. Our position and our solution is that the Americans should withdraw from this waterway and leave the security of the Persian Gulf in the hands of the littoral states.

Regarding the question of the Soviet television correspondent who asked the prime minister's views about Soviet policies in the Persian Gulf, he said: Our policy regarding the withdrawal of U.S. forces and those of its NATO allies from the Persian Gulf is the same as the Soviet policy, and its announcement by the Soviet Union reveals the realistic policies of that country on this issue, and this policy is in the interest of the region.

In answer to the question of the NBC correspondent regarding the Arab summit conference, Musavi said: We have had discussions with our Syrian brothers about the main issues of the Arab summit conference and have become aware of their views. On the whole, the issue of the war will not end except with the punishment of Saddam. This is something which we have repeatedly announced and it is something which we will raise everywhere. We have also said the same thing in connection with the Security Council resolutions.

Another correspondent asked about the activities of the fighters inside Iraq and the prime minister answered: At the moment, a very extensive and comprehensive movement can be seen against Saddam throughout Iraq, especially in Baghdad, in the south, and in the north of Iraq. These movements are still continuing and demonstrate the popular nature of the movements of the Iraqi people against the Saddam regime and it is natural that we will support those forces.

Concerning the issues he discussed with Syrian officials, Mir Hoseyn Musavi said: During this trip regional issues and the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic regarding key issues were discussed and these produced good results. In the course of these discussions we also talked and exchanged opinions about bilateral relations which have always been expanding and about its various dimensions, as well as the Iraqi war against Iran and the situation in the Persian Gulf and international issues. Three committees were formed to follow up issues regarding economic, cultural, and political affairs.

Iranian Delegation Holds Economic Talks
JN191556 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1445 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Damascus, 19 Oct (SANA)—A round of economic talks was held here today between the Syrian Arab side led by Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, and the Iranian side led by Hamid Mir Zadeh, assistant prime minister for executive affairs. They discussed economic cooperation and trade exchange and explored ways to foster them.

Information Minister Receives Iranian Official
JN191836 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Minister of Information Yasin Rajjuh this evening received Mustafa Taj Zadeh, assistant minister of culture and Islamic guidance of Iran, and his delegation. The meeting was attended by the Syrian minister's assistant, Adib Ghanam; Zuhayr Buraydi, director general of radio and television; and a number of directors of information bodies in the country.

They talked about ways to develop bilateral ties, especially in the information sphere. The minister then proceeded to review the progress of a subcommittee charged with studying the areas of information cooperation between the friendly countries and ways to enhance it. Rajjuh expressed his satisfaction with the committee's recommendations and suggestions. He reiterated Syria's principled, constant position under the leadership of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, on the Islamic revolution in Iran. Rajjuh noted the determined stand of the Iranian revolution against American and NATO schemes. He pointed to the importance of the media in exposing these schemes in the interests of the causes of liberation, progress, and peace.

For his part, Taj Zadeh reiterated Iran's support for Syria and the untiring struggle of the Syrian people against world Zionism and American imperialism.

Support Reportedly Expressed for Kuwait
PM201143 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Oct 87 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Damascus: We Will Stand by Kuwait and Do Not Condone Aggression Against Arab Territory"]

[Excerpt] London—Syria has expressed support for Kuwait and any Arab state subjected to aggression or occupation, emphasizing that there can be no question or ambiguity about this position. Highly placed Syrian sources, speaking to *Al-Sharq al-Awsat* which contacted them by telephone from London, said that the Syrian position is clear and that they have conveyed it to the Iranian leadership.

The sources said that the Syrian leadership informed the Iranian deputy prime minister of this position when he visited Damascus briefly recently, stressing again that the Syrian views on the Iraq-Iran war are quite clear and that Syria would treat any occupation of any Arab territory as occupation of Syrian territory and would view any aggression against any Arab country in the same light.

The sources further stated that Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi's forthcoming visit to Damascus will form part of the consultations being held with a view to ending the current tension in the Gulf and that the Iranian prime minister will be informed of the Syrian position regarding what a fraternal state like Kuwait is being subjected to.

The Iranian deputy prime minister for political affairs, 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri, paid a 3-day visit to Damascus early this week. [passage omitted]

USSR Plan To Implement Resolution 598 Cited
JN201007 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0805 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 20 Oct (WAKH)—Well-informed Soviet sources in Damascus have said that Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister, delivered certain proposals from Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev to Syrian officials during his visit to Damascus. These proposals deal with drafting a specific mechanism to implement UN Security Council Resolution No 598 to end the Iraq-Iran war.

The Al-Shariqah newspaper *Al-Khalij* today cited these sources as saying that the Soviet proposals—which had the approval of Syria, Iran, France, Britain, Japan, and the FRG—stipulate that the five UN Security Council permanent member states form a military command responsible for an international force operating under the UN flag. These forces, which are currently present in the Arabian Gulf, will be responsible for protecting navigation in Gulf territorial waters and for replying to any aggression on the freedom of navigation by any side.

The sources added that the Soviet official will discuss this proposal with King Husayn who is currently in London. It will also be discussed during the meeting between the U.S. secretary of state and the Soviet foreign minister in Moscow on Thursday.

The sources pointed out that the proposal, which constitutes the first step toward implementing UN Security Council Resolution No 598, is designed to dispel Iranian fears of U.S. threats to carry out aggression against it and to convert the fleets currently present in the Gulf into a peace force. The sources stressed that U.S. and Iraqi approval of this proposal will be decisive.

USSR Behind Reconciliation Bid With PLO

NC181100 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] A Palestinian source in Beirut told *Reuter News Agency* today that Soviet pressure has led to conciliatory talks between Syria and the PLO for the first time since 1983. He added that a high-level Palestinian delegation met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus last week in an attempt to mend the tense relations between Syria and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

The Palestinian source went on to say: The talks did not achieve much and we should not be very optimistic, but the mere fact that Syria has agreed to meet 'Arafat's representatives is a step forward. He said that the Soviet Union had tried strenuously and tirelessly to see that these Syrian-Palestinian sessions were held, with Soviet envoys meeting with 'Arafat and Syrian officials throughout the past year. He added that efforts are now being made to arrange a meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and the PLO chairman at the Amman summit and that the Syrians are eager to divert attention away from [the Arab summit's] discussion of the Gulf war and to focus instead on the Palestinian issue and the attempts for reconciliation with 'Arafat.

Shultz Visit 'Return to Game of Maneuvering'

JN160715 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 16 Oct 87

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Arab Masses Are Speaking Their Mind," a comment by the newspaper *Al-Thawrah* says: On the eve of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' arrival in occupied Palestine, our people's masses spread the uprising throughout the occupied Arab territories. Also on the eve of his arrival, the Israeli prime minister of the coalition government affirmed his country's categorical rejection of the idea to hold an international conference for peace in the Middle East. Hence, there is a serious confrontation between two mentalities, two wills, and two lines.

The occupied territory's masses, which stood up in the face of the occupation authorities, are clearly and frankly showing their opinion to the world. They reject the conditions of the occupation. Moreover, these masses are emphasizing their desire for liberation as well as their nationalist and pan-Arab line of liberating their land, regaining their usurped rights, and establishing an independent state.

Al-Thawrah adds: It goes without saying that we should assert that Shultz give priority to restoring the lost credibility of U.S. policy in the region. This credibility retreated following the collapse of the capitulationist 17 May 1983 agreement which Shultz himself sponsored. U.S. credibility also retreated after the U.S. State Department revealed its confusion in the region, after the options proposed by the U.S. Administration failed and after U.S. attempts to promote the disabled Camp David process failed as well.

It seems Shultz is unable to restore this credibility or is he able to revive the Camp David course. This is because the previous phase of the Arab- Israeli conflict proved that U.S. policy conforms with the requirements of the strategic ally's policy in all fields. This conformity has only caused Arabs calamities, destruction, estrangement, and the dissipation of efforts and resources. Moreover, the Arab masses have spoken their mind in this regard by rejecting all the plans of a capitulationist settlement and by making a mammoth uprising throughout the occupied territories. This uprising affirms that there will be no solution apart from the masses' will and that there will be no peace unless their will is taken into consideration. Shultz' visit will be no more than a return to the game of maneuvering and deception.

Intended To 'Undermine' Summit

JN181105 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 18 Oct 87

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "What Is Behind the Timing of Shultz' Visit to the Region," the newspaper *Al-Thawrah* says: U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' visit to occupied Palestine is a fully-studied move before the convocation of the emergency Arab summit conference in Amman. This recalls the history of U.S. diplomacy which becomes active in such circumstances to undermine Arab stands and plant mines on the path to the summit. This is an attempt to divert the summit from its pan-Arab objectives. This is especially the case because this summit requires a sincere effort to rally Arab resources and to gear Arab attention toward the major danger posed to the Arab nation—the Zionist entity.

Other dangers to the Arab nation are attempts to distract attention from the perils of U.S. policy in the Gulf. This policy threatens to explode the situation in a manner befitting Washington's goal of encircling the region. The Arab nation is currently in a delicate stage. For this reason, we must be vigilant and do everything necessary to unify Arab efforts and resources to serve the battle of destiny and existence against the Zionist enemy and Washington's aggressive schemes.

Commentary on 'Demise' of U.S. Mideast Policy

JN191308 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has made new statements on U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East. These statements came in a news conference he held at the end of his visit to Israel. In these statements, Shultz affirms the U.S. Administration's determination to maintain Israel's military superiority. He also spoke about the administration's concern for what he termed Israel's security. This very point marks the demise of U.S. Middle East policy.

The U.S. Administration's determination to maintain Israel's superiority over all the Arab countries only means a total U.S. bias toward Israel and open U.S. hostility to the Arabs and their national issues. U.S. Administrations, which have transferred the arms race to the Middle East by supplying Israel with all types of weapons, including nuclear weapons, have not helped in bolstering peace and security or in encouraging the efforts being exerted to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement guaranteeing security, peace, and stability in the region.

On the contrary, they have created a serious hotbed of tension and potential war and a very difficult and knotty issue in international relations. They have also encouraged Israel's rulers to pursue the policy of usinf armed force and threatening to use this force to impose their wish on others, to occupy and annex other people's territories by force contrary to the provisions of the UN Charter, and to usurp the inalienable national rights of an entire people and to expel these people from their homeland.

The successive U.S. Administrations, whose theory has been echoed by Shultz, making him an emulator of the same course which others followed and which led to a deadlock, are mainly responsible for Israel's hostile wars against the Arabs and for the present Middle East situation which is posing a daily threat to world peace. Perhaps what a former defense secretary wrote in his memoirs on the Middle East gives an idea about this threat. He said: The USSR prime minister contacted the president of the United States and told him: Israel is not abiding by the cease-fire agreement and resolution. If you have chosen war, then let it be. It is understood that Israel was forced to immediately observe the cease-fire after this contact.

Guaranteeing Israel's militry superiority has not in fact made the Arabs and their national liberation movement bow down to the United States or give in to Israel. It only made U.S. credibility questionable and put Washington in the camp it has chosen, namely, the hostile camp. Thus, it has lost its ability to become a reliable mediator, a fair arbiter, and an honest broker in the Arab-Israeli conflict. The United States is still suffering from this reality and the U.S. position in the region is still suffering from this partiality.

It is indeed regrettable that Shultz, who wants to pose as the man in control of U.S. foreign policy after the downfall of the National Security Council crows and the Irangate scandal heroes, has not produced any proof that he has benefitted from past lessons, such as the frustrations of Washington's policy in the region. Shutlz has not proven that he is fully aware of what has taken and is taking place in the region and of the true weight of the conflicting forces in the region.

The policy of using armed forces and flouting the laws and conventions of the community of nations cannot possibly conform with justice. Helping to maintain the aggressor's superiority over the aggrieved party and asking the aggrieved party to negotiate with the aggressor bilaterally or collectively at an international conference or in the lobbies of the United Nations is a policy that is neither viable nor capable of influencing events in the world or in our region.

When the United States persists in supporting the policy of using armed force and exploiting this policy in the service of aggression, injustice, occupation, and rebellion against the comunity of nations, then it is complicating the situation in the region, making it more critical, and planting the seeds of future sanguinary conflicts. A people respecting themselves and adhering to their honor and rights cannot possibly continue to acquiesce to occupation, coercion, and injustice forever.

Hafiz al-Asad Arrives in Bulgaria

For Bulgarian reportage of the visit to Bulgaria on 20 October by Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of Syria, see the Bulgarian section of the 20 October East Europe *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Afghanistan

Further Reports on Second PDPA Conference

Najib on Factionalism, Faults

LD191056 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1537 GMT 18 Oct 87

[PDPA Central Committee report presented by Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, on 18 October at second nationwide PDPA conference in Kabul—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Sometimes we hear that the situation in the country has become complicated. Yes, the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation has intensified contradictions. When we were sitting idle everything seemed quiet. Now we have begun to act and taken the initiative we have disturbed the enemy nests like nests of wasps. This demonstrates our strength and now we have achieved gains that we did not achieve a year ago; and in most areas we have achieved victories that we could not have achieved in past years.

Today, after gaining positive experience, it is clearer to us that the implementation of the new policy was more complicated than we originally expected. We could have achieved more in all directions of the reconciliation with our endeavors in the past 10 months.

It must be mentioned that the policy of national reconciliation has not yet become irreversible. It has not yet gained an irreversible characteristic. Here everything depends on us. The enemies have intensified their military and political interference. Washington and its obedient servants are broadening their aggression against the people of Afghanistan. Our country has become the target of the policy of state terrorism practised by the Reagan administration. The extremists use all possible means to undermine the policy of national reconciliation.

Negative phenomenon inside the PDPA and the state machinery have also become a negative factor in the implementation of the new policy. The difficulties in developing the new policy among a number of members of the leadership personnel and party members have brought about panic and pessimism. This can be noticed among a number of people who are not ready to compromise with the opposition for fear of losing their position, and also among those who support a policy of quick surrender to the opposition. Despite the fact that there are few such people, our enemies are actively destroying unity, factionalism, and encouraging the struggle for nepotism, and sometimes even revenge. [passage omitted]

A place will also be found for a PDPA that can reflect the interest of the national patriotic bourgeoise in the political structure of society. We will fully assist the creation of a united democratic left among the parties. By participating in this the PDPA will not lose its identity and will remain as a recognized national force.

The leaders of Afghanistan are actively working in search of a compromise with the political forces, including the right wing. Contact with some of the representatives of the seven-party alliance is also broadening and expanding. It is first necessary that this notion of a multiparty system be considered.

The multiparty system, which is based on the principles of national reconciliation, can remove the political isolation of our party which alone is engaged in struggle against imperialism and counterrevolution. Obviously, the unity of the new political forces can be realized in the framework of the National Front. However, is this social and political organization—the National Front, managing to come out as an effective force, to play an important role in the process of national reconciliation, and to have the required influence on Afghan society? Unfortunately, not yet.

The National Front's activities are, to a large extent, still characterized by formalism and only the big cities are under its influence. Only 20 percent of the National Front councils are active in the villages. This organization, which is an inseparable part of the PDPA, has been regarded as deprived of political independence, and this has been one of the major reasons for its weak work. No improvement has been noticed in its work after the convocation of the second National Front congress. It is high time that new approaches should be sought in its activities. The National Front should cover all peace-loving and progressive forces of the country including the opposition on the basis of a single antiwar movement. [passage omitted]

The PDPA is the party of those sharing the same thoughts and the same road. It belongs to the united party members who regard the party interest above their factional interests. Today we should decisively declare that factionalism which is in contradiction with the spirit and nature of the action program and charter of the PDPA, must be rejected forever from the party sanctity. [applause]

Struggle within the party or the revival of any kind of factionalism will be regarded as treachery, as stabbing the party and our friends in the back. Most severe punishments will be meted out to the perpetrators of such actions.

Factional hostility in the PDPA has been transformed into a feeding ground for various factionalist phenomena. Evidence of this is the appearance of a new deviation of factionalism after the 18th PDPA Central Committee plenum and subsequent plenums. These plenums have put forward a policy for the development of the party

role in the life of society and put before the party the duty of reconstructing the party and its political tasks in view of the national reconciliation.

The decisions of the plenum were supported and affirmed by the healthy forces of the party who are striving to go ahead. However individuals appeared who [words indistinct] saw a danger to their private interests. As usual they are personnel of the party and government apparatus who have come from petty bourgeois strata and who are not interested in any changes. They are the stubborn opponents of the new forms and methods of leadership and work. They say that reconciliation will not succeed. The gains of the revolution have been ignored by them. [passage omitted]

The credibility of the party is the credibility of every party member. The manner in which a party member works, lives, and behaves in front of his colleagues and junior members all constitute the credibility of the party. Most members of the party keep the banner of the party aloft. However, there are some who, by breaching party discipline, idleness, arrogance, collecting riches, and addiction to alcohol and narcotics have tarnished these efforts.

The organizational departments, the party control commissions, and the provincial party committees should within (?2) months report to the primary party organizations on the question of the membership of those who are engaged in factionalsim and who, for a long time have not attended party meetings and do not pay membership dues and who should be [word indistinct] from the PDPA. Such persons are [word indistinct] in the party and it is necessary to purge the party of them. The party committees are commissioned to protect the honor of the party and not only their personal position. [applause] [passage omitted]

19 Oct Proceedings, Speeches

LD200643 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0515 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Kabul, October 19, *Bakhtar*—The second nationwide conference of the PDPA entered its second day of discussion on the policy of national reconciliation with the active participation of the elected representatives in an atmosphere of unity and integrity.

Today's morning session was presided over by Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and minister of communications. The session was attended among others by Dr. Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA CC and president of Revolutionary Council, members of Politburo and Secretariate of the Central Committee of the PDPA.

At this session, Muhammad Aslam Watanjar read the message [word indistinct] of the Presidium of the second nation-wide conference of the PDPA regarding the resolution on party unity which was signed by the elected representatives of the second nation-wide conference of the PDPA on October 18.

Later, Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and chairman of the Council of Ministers, delivered a speech on economic growth of the country in conditions of national reconciliation.

Later, a number of delegates in their speeches ratified the main report of the conference.

Similarly, Zohoruddin Zohori, a leading member of the Toilers Organisation of Afghanistan read the congratulatory message of the Central Committee of that organisation addressed to the participants of the second nationwide conference of the PDPA.

The afternoon session of the conference was presided over by Muhammad Rafi', Politburo member of the PDPA CC and minister of defence. At the outset, Nur Ahmad Nur, Politburo member and secretary of the PDPA CC, talked about amendments in the party rules.

'Abdul Wakil, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and minister of foreign affairs of the DRA, delivered a speech on the international position of the DRA.

The elected representatives to the conference observed the photography exhibitions of *Bakhtar Information Agency*, Democratic Youth Organisation of Afghanistan, DYOA, Afghanistan Women's Council (AWC), depicting the gains of the policy of national reconciliation.

The elected representatives to the conference visited a number of workers collectives and the state bodies as well and explained to the audience about the amendments to be brought in the program of action of the PDPA.

Addition to Najib Report

The following addition to the item subheaded "Najib Delivers Report," published in the 19 October Near East & South Asia *Daily Report* on pages 45-48, is supplied from a retransmission of Kabul *Bakhtar* in English at 0415 GMT on 20 October resuming the report on Najib's presentation:

Last paragraph, last sentence, reads: The total number of the armed forces has increased to 127 thousand persons including 40 thousand in army, 30 thousand [passage indistinct]

Our country expresses her eternal gratitude to the people of the Soviet Union for their internationalist soldiers, their past and present assistance for building a new Afghanistan. It is clear to the entire world that the

process of return of the Soviet limited contingent from Afghanistan has begun and the time of its ending is also known. Whenever the USA and her allies guarantee cessation of interference in the internal affairs of the DRA, the process of return of the internationalist soldiers to their peace-loving country will continue.

I would like to mention that the internationalist soldiers are not stationed in 12 provinces. They are concentrated in five airports including Kabul International Airport and also along the Kabul-Salang-Hairatan highway. Security of traffic in this highway is not only in favour of Afghanistan but is also in favour of almost 40 countries including the Soviet Union, India, France, Japan, Czechoslovakia, GDR, FRG, Bulgaria, Syria, Hong Kong, and Bangladesh that are making use of it for trade.

But most of the issues related to military structure and strengthening of the combat capability of our armed forces have not yet been solved. All our units and detatchments, in present, are not capable enough to, independently and successfully, resist the enemy.

Every professional organisation of the party and the youth organisation should turn into a combat group. Military detatchments of the party will be formed in districts, cities and provinces and the secretaries of the concerned party committee will guide them.

I order the general officer and the chief of general staff Comrade Shahnawaz Tanai to prepare in one month the programme for a universal military education system for the members of the party and the youth organisation.

Our military doctoring in the condition of reconciliation reflects the social character of our state and by this the internal and foreign policies of the DRA for the defence of the national sovereignty will be determined. For implementation of the great duties programmed by the national-democratic revolution, the country needs peace and ensuring of normal political, economic, trade etc. Relations with other states and first of all with the neighbouring countries. The important charactor of our military doctrine, i.e., its defensive charactor is originated from this cause. Afghanistan will never carry out offensive military operation against any country or alliance of countries, unless it is subjected to, military aggression. In addition to that we will promote the military preparedness of our armed forces so as to avoid the possiblity of any pre-emptive attack.

The leadership of Afghanistan has always been endeavouring to conduct dialogue with the opposition, "the seven-party-coalition" and other organisations. No one can deny the constructiveness of this dialogue. In the course of last ten months our government has issued 14 statements on compromise and forgiveness.

What have we got in response? Despite the fact that the policy of national reconcitiation is gaining more supporters and strength it is seriously ignored by the opposition. At the same time, we hear fabrications and concoctions, vast ideological subversion which, as a matter of fact, expands cleverly and mercilessly the dimensions of the "psychological war" by cunning and mean methods of its own.

Please ask the heads of the "seven-party-coalition", how about the destiny of their ignominous statement released on Jadi 27, 1365 [17 January 1987] in response to the proclamation of our national reconciliation? None of the provisions of this statement has been practised. The opposition side took an oath to conduct elections in their areas. However, this plan was foiled. They released to the world the news regarding the creation of an Afghan government in exile. Nothing was gained. Later they proclaimed that they would prepare a draft of a constitution. Their plan was foiled again. This adventurism of theirs failed again. The people are engaged in setting forth their views on our draft constitution. Deep crisis, stagnation, efforts at annihilating each other—for instance some time ago an attempt was made on Gulbuddin—are the characteristics of the activities of the "seven-party-coalition". They, like the spiders undermine each other. It is interesting that the leaders of the seven counter-revolutionary organisations, keeping in view the change in the approach of some Afghan emigrants residing in Pakistan, have replaced their personal bodyguards with Pakistani citizens.

We have every reason to claim that the proclamation of the policy of national reconciliation by our party has foiled the most basic, habitual and most false slogan of the counter-revolutionaries.

The reaction swears, in political hysteria, that it would never accept the PDPA in the coalition government. No doubt, these are the hue and cry raised by the White House. It is the White House that does not want to see the PDPA at the head of the negotiation table for a compromise.

In case the leaders of the "seven-party-coalition" do not adopt a constructive stand towards national reconciliation, we would accelerate the establishment of contacts with the commanders of the armed groups inside the country as well as the second rank commanders who are living abroad. We invite them to join the coalition organs of administration preserving their particular autonomy in the regions of their control. Undoubtedly, they will establish mutually useful contacts with the central government in Kabul, said the general secretary.

We are of the opinion that in our future contacts with the opponents who are living abroad, we would like to employ moderate and neutral forces for normalizing the situation in the country. A proposal is made that offices of representations of the main opposition organisations be opened in Kabul City, provided their heads express their principled agreement with the idea of compromise and establishment of peace and security. We would take

another stride towards peace and security. Let us propose once again to the opposition instead of war its alternative, compromise and avoidance of fanning hostility among the countrymen, enabling them not feel ashamed after the compromise.

At present, the policy of national reconciliation has been changed into the determining tendency for most of the countries that fight for introducing revolutionary changes, ensuring independence and territorial integrity.

Nicaraguan friends, in particular, and Latin American countries as a whole, have achieved great gains in this regard. Promising tendencies are observed in Indo-China. Kampuchean comrades have formulated exceptionally concrete and interesting programme on the basis of the experience of Afghanistan.

Thus, the policy of national reconciliation has really been changed into the achievement of national-democratic movements of many peoples and countries and an inseparable part of life of the international community. In this way our responsibility towards the international liberation movement has increased, Dr. Najibullah noted

In accordance with the resolutions of the June plenum of the PDPA Central Committee, the commission of the Politburo has completed its work in drafting the new programme of action of the PDPA.

The changes that have taken place in the course of the last five years in our country have ensured the new policy of the party on national reconciliation, the need for the realisation of the programme of action of the PDPA in line with the objective life and legitimacy of social growth and evolution.

The new draft has been freed of the negative elements such as untimely haste, superficial and simple approach in tackling the main problems of the revolutionary process.

The new draft programme of action determines the status of the party, its role and place in the newly shaping socio-political system in such a manner that the party would really find the opportunity to convert itself into the leading political force for achieving national peace and into a powerful factor for its preservation in future. The universal interest shown by the people in peace, determines the objectives and the essence of the new political system. As far as the PDPA is concerned, notwithstanding the claims of some comrades, this party would not give up political power. It only avoids the monopoly of power in a bid to make it broader from the point of view of composition.

The character and the essence of the state of Afghanistan have also been formulated in a new form. It is of principled significance. For lack of clarity in this issue would cause the continuation of bloodshed and fratricide in the country. The stand of the party is that the character and the essence of the state of Afghanistan stems not from the limited party approach, but from the objective realities and real balance of forces. The formulation which defines, in the new draft, Afghanistan as an independent, neutral and non-aligned country, would help this issue.

We are at the threshold of the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

The Soviet Union has conquered high peaks in the course of 70 years and has been changed into the powerful state and bastion of peace and progress for entire peoples on our planet.

Permit me to express, on behalf of you and the people of Afghanistan, the gratitude full of love and respect stemming from the depth of our hearts, to the communists, entire people of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, all leaders of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the state of the Soviet Union on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of Great October Socialist Revolution and wish them greater success in ensuring peace, prosperity and progress as well as in conducting creative work in fulfilling the great plans, said Dr. Najibullah.

We should also consider the convocation of the second congress of the PDPA. More than 23 years have elapsed since the convocation of the first party congress. It in itself is an abnormal thing and does not reconcile with the norms of party life. A deep and serious programme is necessary for the party.

The congress of the party is the highest and most credible body of the party, and its decisions mean law for all party organizations and members. Only this issue is necessary for us.

Party congresses have great role to play in ensuring the unity of the party. For the congress, being the highest organ of the party and the reflector of its collective will, determines the unity of the whole party on all issues.

We have achievements. However, these achievements could be greater and more satisfactory. The policy of national reconciliation is still at its beginning. Therefore, it should be accelerated.

National reconciliation is the continuation of the April revolution, he concluded.

PDPA, Toilers Group Sign Cooperation Protocol

LD200626 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0457 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Kabul, October 19, *Bakhtar*—The Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, PDPA, and the Central Committee of the Toilers Organisation of Afghanistan (TOA) will cooperate with each other as independent political organisations.

This has been said in a protocol of cooperation which was recently signed between the PDPA and TOA on the advent of the second nation-wide conference of the PDPA.

Both sides, reads the protocol of cooperation, see the political future of the country as an independent state with national sovereignty, territorial integrity as well as with a non-aligned states and high credibility among the states of the world.

Both sides try their best to hold friendly relations with the neighbouring countries, Non-Aligned Movement, Organisation of Islamic Conference and the members of the United Nations organisation and to strengthen and to consolidate it.

The protocol of cooperation emphasizes that both sides will give their support to the principle of international peace and solidarity, friendship and cooperation with the people of the world. They will jointly campaign against reaction, imperialism, neo-colonialism, national and racial discrimination, arms race and other manifestations of talking from the position of strength and aggressions, reads the protocol of cooperation.

India

Gandhi Pleased by Limits on Aid to Pakistan

BK190954 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] The prime minister has expressed the hope that Pakistan will give substantive clarifications on its nuclear intentions before the United States decides to resume aid to Islamabad. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was speaking at a question-answer session at Harvard University where he had gone to address the scholars. He said he is glad that the U.S. Congress has put limits on aid to Pakistan, but it should see that Islamabad makes its position clear on the issue.

Mr Gandhi said the United States should put pressure on Pakistan to stop large quantities of drugs being smuggled from Pakistan into India.

Answering questions on Sri Lanka, the prime minister said the problem there is no longer of ethnic nature. It is now Tamil militants killing Tamils there, which cannot be allowed.

Turning to the role of the opposition in India, Mr Gandhi said the opposition parties are too fragmented and small to play a positive role. They have no policy or ideology. There have to be fewer parties with specific orientations to become effective, he added. He said Congress-I will have organizational elections by the end of this year or early next year.

Earlier in his address to the scholars, Mr Gandhi said the recent rise in religious fundamentalism remained a challenge to the basic tenets of Indian nationalism. He said we have to fight many more battles to overcome it.

All India Radio's special correspondent, Harish Avasti, reports that in his address at the prestigious American educational institution at Harvard, the prime minister made out a powerful case for democracy in India. He said the answer to our problem lies in strengthening our democratic institutions.

Gandhi Says Pakistan Seeks Nuclear Weapons

BK200526 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0435 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has accused Pakistan of clandestine attempts to acquire nuclear weapons. Speaking to members of the Foreign Policy Association, a private American group educating Americans about foreign affairs in New York, Mr Gandhi said we need a proven commitment from Pakistan to abjure nuclear weapons. But instead, Islamabad is engaged in acquiring nuclear weapons by any means, he said. The prime minister pointed out that Pakistani agents have been caught red-handed twice in the United States.

Mr Gandhi welcomed the Soviet-American agreement on dismantling medium-range nuclear missiles.

On the Punjab situation, Mr Gandhi said terrorism has temporarily derailed the democratic process in Punjab. But he said some headway has been made against the terrorists and terrorism is being smashed and normalcy is being restored.

LTTE Threatens Tamil Nadu State Government

BK191733 Hong Kong AFP in English 1724 GMT
19 Oct 87

[Text] Madras, India, Oct 19 (AFP)—The dominant Sri Lankan Tamil rebel group has threatened to blow up the state government headquarters here in Tamil Nadu unless the Indian Peace-keeping Force in Sri Lanka ends its offensive against the group on the island, the top state official said here Monday.

Tamil Nadu State Chief Secretary A. Padmanabhan said the threat was in a letter he received Monday here in Madras, the state capital, purporting to be from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

Mr. Padmanabhan said the letter warned that the entire Secretariat complex, located in the British-built St. George Fort, would be blown up in a day or two unless the Indian force stopped its offensive in Sri Lanka's northern, Tamil-dominated Jaffna Peninsula.

Explosives experts and senior police officers thoroughly searched the sprawling complex with the help of sniffer dogs and metal detectors, but found no bombs, officials said.

Sri Lankan Refugees To Report for Repatriation

BK141625 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Text] The government has directed the Sri Lankan refugees staying outside the camps in Tamil Nadu to report to district collectors by the end of December to facilitate their smooth repatriation. According to an official release in New Delhi, those who fail to report and continue to remain in India will be treated as illegal aliens and prosecuted under the Registration of Foreigners Act.

The press release says conditions are being created in Sri Lanka to enable the refugees to return to their homes to lead a peaceful normal life. India has already initiated steps to send back the refugees who are staying in the camps. It is now felt the refugees staying outside the camps should also return to Sri Lanka. According to the records maintained by the Tamil Nadu government, a little over 95,000 refugees are staying outside the camps in different districts of the state.

The press release adds that on their reporting to the office of the district collectors, the refugees will be issued identification documents to facilitate their return and resettlement in Sri Lanka.

Party Officials View Sri Lanka Peace Accord

BK180131 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] The AICC-I [All India Congress Committee-I] general secretary, Mr G.K. Moopanar, has expressed confidence that the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement will be implemented in full despite the present difficulties. Speaking to newsmen in Cochin today, he said the agreement is the result of serious thinking on various aspects concerning Sri Lankan Tamils.

The Tamil Nadu unit of the CPI-M has appealed to all sections to cooperate in the implementation of the agreement. In a statement issued in Madras, the secretary of the state unit urged the LTTE to give up their present approach to the problem. He also asked them to surrender all their arms to the peacekeeping force and try to settle the problem through negotiations.

The DMK president, Mr M. Karunanidhi, has urged the peacekeeping force to declare a cease-fire without insisting on the LTTE laying down their arms. Addressing a news conference in Madras, he said the issue of surrendering of the arms could be discussed in the negotiations that would follow the cease-fire.

Akali Dal Rivals Contest Temple Presidency

BK170424 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] In Punjab, the SGPC [Sikh Temple Management Committee] members owing allegiance to the Unified Akali Dal [UAD] and the Akali Dal-Longowal [Akali Dal-L] held parallel meetings to elect their own set of office-bearers to the committee at (Kisgarsaheb) in Anandpur today. While the UAD-dominated meeting elected Mr G.S. Tohra as the SGPC president, the Akali Dal-L declared its nominee, Mr Harcharan Singh Khudiara, as the new president. Both the meetings also elected separately 11-member executive and other office-bearers of the committee.

Earlier, a scuffle took place at the entrance of the Gurdwara [Sikh temple] in which some SGPC members were manhandled. According to the police, plainclothes policemen present there with the permission of the Gurdwara management immediately intervened and separated the two groups. Talking to newsmen, the spokesman of the UAD, Captain Amrinder Singh, said 65 SGPC members participated in the unanimous election of Mr Tohra and other executive members. The president of Akali Dal and former chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, claimed that 62 SGPC members attended the meeting in which Mr Khurdiara was elected president. Mr Barnala said the figure of 62 includes 19 members whom the UAD claims to have attended their meeting.

'Terrorists' Kill 4 in Amritsar District

BK160928 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] In Punjab, four persons were shot dead by terrorists in Amritsar District last night. According to an official spokesman, the sarpanch [village headman] of (Rork) village and another person were shot dead by terrorists while they were returning to their village on a scooter.

In another incident, some terrorists gunned down two persons in village Kullar late last night.

Iran

Leaders Comment on Attack on Oil Platforms

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Speech

LD201316 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Speech by Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at the Majlis session on 20 October—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The new U.S. crime in the Persian Gulf, the incident that they created yesterday, proved the predictions made by responsible officials of the Islamic Republic months ago. From the early days when the Americans began their threats and intimidation, our country's officials announced that this U.S. policy is one of adventurism and intervention that seeks a pretext to save the Iraqi Ba'th Party and to crush the Islamic revolution of Iran. As the days pass, every incident underscores this opinion.

Even the friends of the White House have failed so far to justify this meaningless policy, which is incompatible with their claims. Even their own interpretation is called the policy of confusion. It is called a policy of confusion because their words do not match their deeds. The objective is precisely what I said, but they claim they have come to safeguard peace and security and to maintain security of shipping in the Persian Gulf. However, we see every day that they are delivering fresh blows to peace and security.

Now this affair is reaching beyond the region. Since yesterday and today in particular, it has created the worst crisis in the economic centers of the world which, according to their own interpretation, is unparalleled since 1929. The fall in the value of shares is even worse than what it was in 1929. It is called a policy of confusion because 2 days ago the U.S. secretary of state formally announced that the divine [tir-e gheyb] missiles which hit the region of Kuwait are of no concern to the United States. However, 48 hours later, they had forgotten their formal announcement and in retaliation for the divine missiles—which will always exist in the region—they impudently attacked the oil rigs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The interpretation of Mr Reagan's policy by the previous U.S. president is the truth in the opinion of many unbiased observers of the world, that is, a foolish and really meaningless policy. With so much pomp and ballyhoo and such power after this extensive propaganda of the last 2 days launched by the arrogant mass media, after the hue and cry raised yesterday, the United States attacked and pounded an unarmed oil platform of the Islamic Republic 110 km from the Iranian coast in an area navigated by international ships and where the United States is present on the pretext of maintaining security. Therefore, they are repeating the crime of hitting the *Iran-Ajr* and attacking patrol boats. However, unlike the previous attacks, this time a deliberate plan is seen in the U.S. crime. They announced it formally. On the two previous occasions they used the pretext of defense. However, this time the attack was carried out by dispatching several ships and warships and the provision of air cover. This was a blatant military operation against an oil rig deep in the sea, an act which is not compatible with its superpower status, with its alleged concern for peace and security, or with common sense and wisdom. They have often seen and experienced that the Islamic Republic of Iran sticks to its words. The fact that we have said that we will respond to any aggression is not a threat and pure intimidation. This is a fact, and we have proved in practice that we stand by this policy. We believe in this as an Islamic principle, and we see this capability in ourselves.

It is thus clear to us that the United States has no intention of safeguarding peace and security in the region or in any other part of the world. The U.S. action was to cover up the internal problems of the ruling clique in the United States and for solving problems of U.S. agents in the region, who have brought all this upon themselves because of their fear of the great Islamic movement in the world. They were forced to attack the main base of this new movement because of what they see in occupied Palestine, Lebanon, Tunisia, Egypt, other countries of the world, and in Iraq. Recently, they confessed that Iraq is threatened from within, by its own Islamic forces inside Iraq. They were forced to attack because of what they see in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and other places; they sought baseless excuses.

They were forced to enter into action against the Islamic Republic so ruthlessly and so impudently because of the hatred felt by the gangs ruling over the Western arrogance against Islam, which for centuries opposed them. Today they see that despite their centuries of efforts, Islam has risen from beneath the rubble of Islamic states to move forward proudly. Our nation, as the vanguard of this Islamic movement, has prepared itself to forge ahead with all its might and resources and will not turn back from the path which it has chosen and which it sees enjoys divine support and God's succor and guidance. We believe this region offers the best location and opportunity for dealing the heaviest blow to Western arrogance and world arrogance. This is the best time and the best place and offers the best opportunity. They have voluntarily and with their own feet entered a place where our sacrificing nation and our selfless and zealous youths feel obliged to fulfill their duties to deliver the final blow to the agents of arrogance and the roots of these crimes. Both on the battlefronts of the war against Iraq, where the deadly blows should be delivered, and against these cowardly, interventionist and tyrannical moves we will perform our duties in the coming days, God willing. We will make them regret their deeds.

May God's peace and mercy be upon you all.

Khamene'i on Reagan 'Mistake'

LD191707 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] The Supreme War Support Council held an extraordinary meeting tonight chaired by President Khamene'i. This meeting discussed the imposed war and the U.S. attack on Iranian oil platforms. Iran's decisive response to U.S. attacks was emphasized.

At the end of this meeting, Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, commented on today's U.S. attack in an interview with reporters: We will certainly retaliate and will not leave this U.S. action unanswered. He said: With this move, Mr Reagan has made a big mistake and has certainly added to his problems.

In this interview, Khamene'i referred to the fact that the U.S. attack lacked any military value and that completely nonmilitary targets were attacked. He said: With such moves the U.S. Government has further revealed its bullying and hostile intentions in the Persian Gulf.

Denying the U.S. claim that there were military personnel and facilities on the Rashadat platform, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council emphasized: They shelled and destroyed our oil platform and damaged nonmilitary targets which lacked any defensive capabilities. The Islamic Republic of Iran regards it as its natural right to retaliate against this impudent U.S. act.

Khamene'i Vows Reponse

LD201043 Tehran IRNA in English 1038 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 20, IRNA—President Khamene'i vowed Tuesday that Iran will react to U.S.'s Monday attack on Iranian oil rigs. He said in reference to the attack that although "Reagan's foolish act" is of no military value, all the same since Washington has violated the permissible bounds the Islamic Republic will give such a response as to get the Americans into deeper troubles.

The president who was speaking to a group of visitors stressed that at any confrontation in the Persian Gulf it is not military hardware which decides the winner. In this region, he continued, an Iranian combatant downs a modern U.S. helicopter with a simple fire arm.

President Khamene'i further described the U.S. attack on Iranian oil platforms as a "shameful" move, and said that to strike an oil rig is not an achievement to boast of.

Khamene'i pitied the U.S. President as a 'poor old man' who seems to be badly afflicted.

On one hand, said the Iranian president, the U.S. is not eager for a clash with Iran because it very well knows such a confrontation will endanger its economic interests, the Republican Party and its allies, and on the other hand the American people are witnessing Washington's politico-economic scandals quite often in various parts of the world.

The SDC head said the U.S. aggression is vainly aimed at supporting the Iraqi regime and preventing the Islamic Republic from Emerging victorious in the Iraqi-imposed war.

President Khamene'i called on the Iranian people to be prepared to settle the difficulties on the boundaries. This is something which the U.S., the West, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are all scared about.

"In the Persian Gulf," noted Khamene'i "we enjoy both military arsenal and popular support, besides our people's faith in Islam."

Asserted Khamene'i that Iran is now as powerful as the U.S. in the Persian Gulf, and that whenever an incident happens in the region all are eager to know what Iran's reaction would be.

Today, Khamene'i said, so many people believe that Iran is stronger than the U.S. in the Persian Gulf, because the Iranian people, besides having arms, enjoy a strong faith in God.

Oil Minister Estimates Damage

LD201039 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 20, IRNA—Iran's Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh categorically denied U.S. allegations that military and radar installations existed on the two Iranian oil platforms in the Persian Gulf attacked by U.S. Navy Monday.

Aqazadeh told domestic and foreign reporters here Tuesday that there were only anti-air defence devices in 'Reshadat' and 'Resalat' oil fields and on some of their platforms.

The oil minister added that the two platforms were still on fire and there was a possibility for oil spill and pollution of the Persian Gulf waters.

He told the news conference that the Americans after inflicting heavy damage on the oil platforms left the area and at present tug boats of the Iranian Oil Company were trying to extinguish the fire.

A rough estimate puts the extent of damage over dlrs 500 million, Aqazadeh said, adding that after precise assessment Iran will file a complaint against this aggression at international circles.

He noted that at the time of the attack oil company engineers, technicians and workers were carrying out reconstruction and repair works on the platforms which had previously been attacked by the Iraqi regime.

A number of oil company personnel were injured in the U.S. attack, two of whom are in critical condition, the oil minister said, stressing that the personnel of the platforms could not show any military reaction because there were only oil installations on the platforms.

On U.S. claims that it had warned the personnel on the platforms to evacuate the area, Aqazadeh said the warning, made a few minutes prior to the attack, could not change the nature of the aggressive move.

Aqazadeh told reporters that oil platform 'R-7' the biggest in Reshadat and Resalat oil fields which was under final the stages of repair works, had sustained the highest damage.

Asked if this U.S. attack would provoke Iran to block the Strait of Hormuz, Aqazadeh did not give an explicit response but said the U.S. move will gradually bring the region to a more critical situation, adding that if a fresh crisis is introduced it would affect all regional countries.

The oil minister stressed that the U.S. move aimed at feeding American mass media, noting that it lacked military value.

He also denied reports by Western media on an alleged confrontation between Iranian speed boats and U.S. ships after Monday's attack and said there were no ship, boat or any military equipment around the platforms.

Commenting on statements made by U.S. officials after the attack that the "case is closed", Aqazadeh said Iran will also consider the case closed after its retaliatory measure.

On the possibility of an undeclared war between Iran and the U.S., the oil minister said, "I, as the representative of the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran announce that for any U.S. blow against us, we will deal a more severe blow on the U.S."

He said the depth of the U.S. crime will be disclosed after films and pictures taken of the two platforms are shown, adding that media men would probably be dispatched to the area.

The oil minister said prior to the attack 20,000 to 25,000 bpd [barrels per day] of oil were produced at the two Reshadat and Resalat oil fields. On the impact of the attack on the oil market, Aqazadeh said since attacks of these kind will heighten tension in the region and make access to oil difficult, it would also affect oil prices. However, he said he did not predict any serious change in oil prices.

'Civilians' Reported Wounded

LD191732 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] This afternoon U.S. warships attacked the Rashadat oil platforms in the Persian Gulf. During the attack by U.S. forces on those platforms—which are near Qatar and far from the Iranian coast—severe damage was inflicted. According to the reports we have received, a number of the civilian servicemen working on those platforms have been wounded.

Meanwhile, Caspar Weinberger, the U.S. war minister, in reply to reporters who asked him why instead of attacking the sites of Silkworm missiles nonmilitary oil platforms were attacked, said: The Silkworm missiles are normally moved here and there and it is difficult to target them. On the other hand, U.S. President Reagan said in connection with today's attack by U.S. warships on Iranian oil platforms that he had consulted congressional leaders and friendly governments about this attack.

Attack on Resalat Denied

LD191704 Tehran IRNA in English 1652 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 19, IRNA—An informed source at Iran's Oil Ministry told IRNA here that the U.S. Navy had attacked two oil flatforms in 'Rashadat' oil field in the Persian Gulf today. The source also dismissed earlier reports that the U.S. Navy had also attacked Resalat oil field.

Foreign Ministry Statement

LD191718 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Following the attack against our oil platforms by the United States, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced: This afternoon, the United States took a dangerous step in continuing its previous aggressions by using its naval forces to attack Iranian oil platforms in the Persian Gulf. The attack against economic centers and oil installations of the Islamic Republic of Iran has effectively put the region on the verge of a total engagement. The use of military force by the United States against Iranian oil platforms is a definite and open aggression against the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran—a nonaligned and Islamic country—and will certainly elicit an appropriate and decisive response at the proper time.

The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while stressing the necessity for the withdrawal of all foreign military forces from the Persian Gulf, warns about the presence of the United States in the region which has caused insecurity and increased tension and considers the U.S. regime responsible for all future events stemming from this aggression.

Khamene'i on War Support Council 'Response'

LD191802 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 19 Oct 87

["President Promises Retaliation After War Support Council's Urgent Meet"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Oct 19, IRNA—The Supreme War Support Council held an extraordinary session presided over by President 'Ali Khamene'i here today to discuss the U.S. attack on Iranian oil platforms in the Persian Gulf. The Council approved Iran's "resolute response to the aggression."

Speaking to reporters after the session President Khamene'i said Iran will certainly retaliate the U.S. attack. "U.S. aggressions will not go unanswered," the president stressed.

Noting that Reagan committed a big folly which will add up to his previous blunders, Khamene'i said Washington further revealed its bullying and hostile face in the Persian Gulf by attacking non-military platforms and destroying them. They (Americans) hit economic targets with no defense facilities, he added.

"Of course they (Americans) may later lie that there were military personnel and facilities on the platforms, but the plain fact is that these were only oil platforms," Khamene'i said.

State Security Council Holds Meeting

LD201124 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Today's meeting of the State Security Council discussed the latest security situation of the country and reached appropriate decisions. This meeting discussed the various dimensions of U.S. conspiracies in the region, especially in the Persian Gulf, the attack by U.S. warships on Iranian nonmilitary oil platforms in the Persian Gulf, the issues of the imposed war, and the activities of U.S. mercenary minigroups with the support of the United States and the Iraqi regime in the Iran-Iraq border areas and approved ways of confronting them.

The State Security Council condemned the aggressive American moves carried out in accordance with that country's imperialist nature, decided on the necessary solutions, and defined the duties of relevant organizations and departments.

Yesterday's violation of Char Bahar by the United States and NATO aircraft was also discussed and the necessary measures were taken regarding this matter.

Kharazzi on Response to 'Crime'

LD191722 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Mr Kamal Kharrazi, head of the War Information Headquarters (WIH) made the following announcement after the U.S. attack against the oil platforms of the Islamic Republic of Iran: The United States will receive a response to its crime today with full force. He asked our country's people to be ready to oppose the U.S. onslaught and respond to the crimes of the U.S. ruling clique.

The WIH head added: The United States has entered a quagmire which it will not be able to leave unscathed. He added: The U.S. action in attacking the Iranian oil platforms is not militarily important since they were used for economic purposes and were manned by the Oil Ministry personnel. The crime by the United States today is similar to the 7-year crime of the Iraqi regime in the Persian Gulf. The U.S. ruling clique should not be proud of committing this crime.

He added: The U.S. adventures in the Persian Gulf are a clear violation of UN Security Council Resolution No 598 which the United States, as a member of the Council, has approved. This shows that the U.S. ruling clique does not adhere to any principles. The WIH head stressed: The United States has come to the region to fight the Islamic Revolution and in this respect has been completely supporting the Iraqi regime. Today the unified Washington-Baghdad front has come to fight the Muslim people of Iran. However, just as 7 years ago the all-out Iraqi invasion of Iran resulted in the resistance, determination, and cohesion of the Iranian people, today's U.S. aggressions will also result in further unity among all the people of Iran for the sake of opposing the aggressive U.S. military forces.

Mr Kharrazi stressed: The United States is gradually entering its military into a quagmire in the Persian Gulf, similar to the one created by the United States in Vietnam. U.S. soldiers will not leave this battleground unscathed.

Tehran Comments on Stock Market Plunge, Gulf

LD201336 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1119 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Political commentary entitled: "The Unprecedented Drop in Share Prices and Severe Fluctuations in the World Stock Exchanges"]

[Excerpts] Yesterday, following the aggressive attack by U.S. warships on oil platforms on the continental shelf of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Persian Gulf, and the broadcast of the comments by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, on Iran's response to this belligerent action by the U.S. ruling clique, the world's stock exchanges and oil, gold, and currency markets in important world capital cities reacted to this development and saw severe, unprecedented fluctuations. [passage omitted]

Economic circles and state radios of the industrialized countries attributed yesterday's crisis in the stock markets to two factors: the devaluation of the dollar and the increase in interest rates in the U.S. However, considering the fact that the 40 percent devaluation of the dollar started a few years ago and the increase in interest rates in the United States happened some time ago, it is clear that yesterday's military development in the Persian Gulf was one of the important factors contributing to the enormous crisis in world stock markets.

Moreover, U.S. authorities have always claimed that the devaluation of the dollar and the increase in interest rates was a calculated and logical move. For the time being, as Iran's response to the recent aggression by the

United States is not known, the stock market situation is unpredictable. Yesterday's developments in the Persian Gulf had major effects on oil, gold, and currency markets which no doubt shows how vitally important this region is to the world's economic and political dealings and the prevailing critical situation. [passage omitted]

Reagan's remarks, more than anything else, show that the main factor contributing to yesterday's crisis in U.S. financial markets was the tension in the Persian Gulf resulting from the U.S. military presence in the region. This presence has placed the United States and Reagan into a dangerous quagmire. At any moment this crisis could turn into full-scale war.

Yesterday's developments in the stock exchanges of the Western world clearly show that because of the sensitivity and importance of the Persian Gulf region, the increasing hostile actions by the United States and the increasing number of that country's warships in the region could result in another gigantic economic crisis for the United States, as well as a political-military crisis for the U.S. ruling clique. [passage omitted]

Under the Reagan administration, the United States has staged hegemonistic military attacks on several countries, none of which has had such negative effects on the United States' political and economic situation as that country's belligerent acts in the Persian Gulf, especially as Iran's resolve to respond decisively to aggressive actions by the United States has been proven to Western circles.

The importance of the Persian Gulf region and the expected negative reaction of the Western world to military crises there demonstrate the need for the American people to pressure the U.S. Government to leave the Persian Gulf vortex as soon as possible.

U.S. Attack Presages 'Grim' Future for Area

NC201139 Tehran Television Service in Arabic 0945 GMT 20 Oct 87

[From the "Today's Talk" program]

[Text] Yesterday, four U.S. warships attacked two Iranian oil platforms south of Lavan Island. The United States has thus declared war on the Islamic Republic and sided totally with the Iraqi regime. The two platforms attacked by the U.S. warships have in the past repeatedly been attacked by hostile Iraqi planes.

U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger told reporters that the platforms were destroyed in the attack. Weinberger attempted to justify the U.S. attack on Islamic Iran and to close the file on this new adventure, as happened in the previous attack on the cargo vessel *Iran-Ajr*.

Political observers believe that the United States is, as expected, trying to indulge in acts and adventures which may offer it the opportunity to extract itself from the morass into which it has plunged and is sinking deeper in the Persian Gulf. The White House politicians threw themselves into this melee in order to restore confidence in and prestige to their policy in the region. However, they have created worse problems for themselves.

At first, the Americans entered the Persian Gulf on the pretext of safeguarding the freedom of shipping in international waters. Eager to provide backing for their reactionary allies in the region, the Americans let Kuwaiti tankers fly the U.S. flag, a symbol of invicible American might. Currently, the United States is engaged in a new adventure, having discovered that certain quarters are capable of defying its military power and prestige.

The United States has blatantly supported Saddam's regime in Iraq for 7 years of aggressive war against Islamic Iran. It has also involved Kuwait and the Saudi ruling family in recent clashes in the Gulf. The record of American decisions and actions in the region has taken on a more serious complexion recently. A White House spokesman has stated that the U.S. Administration had notified the Kuwaiti and Saudi Governments of its decision to launch this flagrant attack on the Islamic republic.

The U.S. attack and the other complications caused by the intensive military presence of the United States and its allies in the Persian Gulf—when viewed against a background of Iranian resolve to retaliate in kind to aggresion—can make the future of the region look grim.

The Muslim Iranian people have proved capable of resisting all forms of aggression and pressure for more than 7 years of a war imposed on them. The experience has left them stronger than before. The American aggressors will never be able to bend the rugged determination of the Iranians to deflect aggression. During the 7-year war in which the Iraqi regime has used all the modern weapons from East and West that it could muster, including internationally banned ones, the Iranians have never lost heart. Now, they are perfectly prepared to confront America and repulse its attack.

Commentary Vows Revenge for U.S. Attack

NC191934 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. It is clear that the new U.S. aggression against the Islamic Republic, the attack on the Reshadat oil platform in the Persian Gulf, was not a military action

commensurate with the U.S. military might they are displaying. Therefore, the political significance of this aggression outweighs the military. This was the point of this action.

A look at the military significance of this aggression shows that it expresses only the impulsive and defeatist spirit guiding the present U.S. Administration's actions and attempts of reckless adventurism with which Reagan is trying to avenge the bitter defeats great Islam has inflicted on U.S. arrogance in the past. Moreover, what is coming will be even greater.

Despite the triviality of this aggression from a military viewpoint, it still demonstrates the U.S. determination to become involved in a direct confrontation with the Islamic Republic. This determination shows the depth of the American defeat and its deep longing to avenge that defeat. At the same time, it proves to the entire world the full responsibility of the United States and those who have paved the way for its hostile military presence in this sensitive region for all consequences resulting from America's hostility and crimes that destroy the security of this region.

All peoples have realized that the Islamic Republic is not one to remain silent in the face of such aggressions, whose targets are first, Islam itself; second, Islam's rising movement; and third, all the Muslims and deprived in the world. As underlined by Muslim officials after the new aggression, the response is inevitable. If the enemies want a direct battle, so be it. We have confidence, like our confidence in God, that the losers will be the aggressors, and victory will go the way of Islam, which has defeated the United States in the past and will, God willing, inflict a more bitter defeat on it in the future. Defenders of Islam today are a mujahidin people who have declared their total loyalty to Islam. They have proved that they are willing to defend Islam to the end. They are supported by a nation whose vanguards have sworn to repel every aggression against Islam, regardless of the sacrifices. It is impossible for such a people and [words indistinct] vanguards to be vanquished. God gives victory to his soldiers.

U.S. Claim of Freedom of Navigation Assailed

NC191426 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0508 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Commentary from the "Voice of the Front" feature]

[Text] Foreign powers are exacerbating tension in the Persian Gulf. The escorting of Kuwaiti ships is merely a pretext for bolstering the presence of U.S. forces in the region. The official in charge of the GCC's political affairs made this statement in attempting to describe how apprehensive the members of this council are with regard to the escalating tension by foreign powers in the region. He should have looked within the council itself for the root cause of this tension, especially the foolish actions of the Kuwaiti court and the Hijaz regime. What he stressed in his statement, however, is an undisputed fact which the contemporary world has accepted and about which there is not the slightest doubt.

The Kuwaiti court dragged the foreign powers into the region by an act of folly and imagined that in this manner it would attain the desired security and be able to continue its audacious acts of unconditional support for the war criminals ruling Iraq. The foreign powers stationed their troops in the Persian Gulf, having brought them there on the pretex of ensuring freedom of navigation. However, not only did their extensive military presence in this period not have even the slightest positive effect in reducing tension in the region, but it served to exacerbate and expand the dimensions of insecurity in the waters of the region instead.

The U.S. militarists entered the Persian Gulf on the pretext of protecting the freedom of navigation. Instead, they attacked a cargo vessel and three boats belonging to Islamic Iran, thus proving that they did not come to the region for the sake of preserving the safety of shipping, but to provoke Iran and to spread insecurity. This in fact is a point that Washington official circles have also affirmed. Edward Luttwak, Reagan's military adviser, explained in this regard: Iraq should attack Iranian vessels so that war developments may be restricted. The presence of foreign warships in the Persian Gulf will make it easier for Iraq to attack Iran and will prevent Iranian attacks on countries supporting Iraq. This is the most open admission by an official Washington source of the actual objectives of the NATO forces in the Persian Gulf. It indicates, first, that invoking the protection of international navigation is merely a pretext to justify this extensive military presence and, second, the United States and the other NATO members have embarked on donning their military accoutrements in the region, merely to direct the Baghdad regime's attacks on Iranian vessels and tankers or those connected with Islamic Iran.

The utterances of Reagan's military adviser prove that the United States may have brought its forces to the Persian Gulf for any purpose except that of ensuring freedom of international shipping. If this were not the case, it should have adopted a different attitude and tried, in word and deed, to protect the security of the region.

Tehran Hits 'Contradictory' U.S. Remarks

NC191309 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0540 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Unattributed commentary from the "Voice of the Front" feature]

[Text] Brave fighters: On Friday, 16 October, we heard on the news that the *Sea Isle U.S.A.* [name as heard] had been hit by a missile. This was at a time when four U.S. combat ships were escorting this ship; they were unable to react, even though they were on 90 percent alert. This

contradicts U.S. allegations that it is protecting ships flying the U.S. flag. We saw that this reflagged Kuwaiti ship was hit by a missile and destroyed. At the same time, George Shultz stated that this attack was on Kuwait and not on the United States. You, dear fighters, can clearly see the contradictory remarks by U.S. officials where the protection of Kuwaiti ships is concerned.

We want to tell all the leaders of world arrogance and the braggarts in the Persian Gulf that they should stop their games and allow the powerful Islamic Republic of Iran to watch over and ensure the security of the Persian Gulf.

Commentary Sees U.S. Infighting Over Policy

LD171326 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1056 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Political commentary: "Inherent Contradictions Within U.S. Ruling Circles Regarding the Persian Gulf Problem"]

[Text] Following missile attacks on two oil tankers off the Kuwaiti coast, one of them flying the U.S. flag and the other American-owned, concern has now been renewed inside the United States over the consequences of Reagan's adventurist policies in the Persian Gulf. As a result, a number of U.S. senators decided, after the events of Thursday and Friday, to renew the debate in the Senate on limiting the legal powers of the president. They decided to set specific time limits for the presence of the U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf.

However, once again the White House has denied any direct link between the above events and the fate of the U.S. military personnel in the Persian Gulf. It has tried to prevent any kind of restrictions on U.S. military presence. Therefore, when a Republican senator recently announced that the above-mentioned incidents clearly indicated the dangerous conditions in which U.S. personnel and ships are operating in the Persian Gulf and that such a situation warranted the implementation of the War Powers Act, the White House once again confronted such demands and raised the point that the implementation of the War Powers Act is predicated on the existence of specific dangers—dangers threatening the lives of U.S. military personnel. Moreover, it argued that in neither of the incidents was there any danger to U.S. military personnel. However, this comes at a time when Reagan has already stated the above act was totally illegal and announced his readiness to enter into a legal battle with Congress.

These confrontations stem principally from the fact that the Reagan administration is trying to implement its adventurist policies in the Persian Gulf freely and with no time limit in order to keep up the appearance of Washington's strength and to prevent anxiety and disunity among U.S. regional and European allies.

On the other hand, despite some efforts to pretend that there is a unity of action between Congress and the administration, Reagan's opponents are determined to grab any opportunity to place limitations on the stay of the U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf. However, such efforts by the opponents have so far failed to yield any clear result. In addition to their anxiety over the consequences of Reagan's policies, they are also concerned lest the continuation and intensification of these confrontations lead to an increase in the U.S. forces' vulnerability in the Persian Gulf, once Reagan's position is weakened.

Therefore, despite the existence of deep differences among the U.S. ruling groups, they have made considerable efforts to prevent, as far as possible, their differences from surfacing. These efforts intensified soon after the United States began to escort the Kuwaiti ships. However, a number of political observers believe that such apparent unity will be maintained only until no major events are taking place in the region. Only when severe and determined blows are dealt to the U.S. forces and when coffins carrying the bodies of the U.S. military personnel are flooding Washington, will opposition groups gradually try to enhance their popular position by criticizing the policies of the Reagan Administration. This assessment carries greater weight considering the upcoming election campaign which will provide these struggles with more suitable forums.

In any case, the expanding and open opposition by members of Congress, which existed even before the implementation of the War Powers Act, and also the most recent statements by the Democratic leader in the Senate—the majority party— all prove that the present situation in which the contending groups are silent must be regarded as only an outward appearance. Moreover, the U.S. ruling establishment is at present deeply divided over the Persian Gulf situation. These differences are so open that former U.S. President Carter recently criticized Washington's present policies in the Persian Gulf and said: I am acquainted with the psychology of the Iranians. It is the essence of their existence to sacrifice their lives battling their enemies. I served for 11 years in the Navy and I am aware of the vulnerability of ships against these suicide attacks. No doubt we will witness an attack on a U.S. warship if these attacks continue.

In any case, the concern being felt inside the United States is only one of the effects of the aggressive policies of the Reagan administration. If U.S. ringleaders refuse to reconsider their aggressive policies against the Islamic Republic of Iran and if they insist on setting the Persian Gulf region on fire, then they will definitely be forced to think more carefully when blows are dealt to the interests of that country all over the world.

Tehran Comments on Musavi Visit to Syria

LD181825 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1102 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Political commentary]

[Excerpts] The prime minister's trip to Syria is the topic of our first political commentary for today.

Our prime minister's trip to Syria once again focuses attention on the bilateral relations of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic and the common viewpoints of both countries on international and regional issues. Following the victory of the Islamic Republic of Iran, our country's relations with those countries standing on the front lines of struggle against the Zionist regime underwent an overall change. The move toward cooperation and collaboration with them in order to advance the goals of the Islamic revolution increased in strength with the passage of time. On the same basis, solid and fraternal relations that have been established between our country and brother Syria have become stronger over the years.

In the course of the past years, officials of various ranks have traveled to each others' capitals and exchanged views over various political, economic, and cultural concerns. In the course of the present year [beginning 21 March 1987], various officials of the Syrian Government visited Tehran, including the Syrian foreign minister who, during this limited period, visited the Islamic Republic of Iran on three occasions. Nearly once every 2 months, the two countries exchange views at a high diplomatic level.

Officials from several of our ministries have also visited Damascus. This shows the importance with which our country views its relations with Syria—a country on the front line of the struggle against the Zionist regime and a country that continues to support revolutionary policies. However, besides these extended relations, our prime minister is actually the highest ranking official to visit Syria during the current year, a point that demonstrates the importance of the current talks between the two countries, especially considering the present developments in the region.

During the current trip to Syria, our prime minister will talk with Syrian officials about ways to expand relations, as well as international and regional issues and other issues of mutual interest. Regarding regional issues, the Islamic Republic of Iran desires unity and extensive cooperation between progressive countries of the region for the liberation of occupied Palestine and the exclusion of the Zionist regime from the world of Islam. The Islamic Republic of Iran will put its resources to work with this objective in mind, so that the movement of struggle against Zionism remains active.

From a political viewpoint, Iran is endeavoring to confront and remain steadfast against compromising currents by collaborating and cooperating with progressive countries and by not allowing traitorous moves such as the disgraceful Camp David pact to grow and expand. In addition, the Islamic Republic of Iran, while supporting the extensive revolt of the Muslims against Zionism and reaction, fully supports the struggles of the Muslim people of Lebanon and Palestine. In this connection, Syria is capable of some political initiatives. [passage omitted on Syrian steadfastness]

If Syria decides to participate in the extraordinary session of Arab leaders in Amman, it is evident that it has a mission to fulfill, that is, to put forward the real and fundamental problems facing the Muslim Arab people and to seriously oppose the suspect and devious struggles of America's lackeys that are aimed at rescuing the Zionist regime. [passage omitted praising bilateral relations]

Khamene'i Interviewed by TEHRAN TIMES

NC190805 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Report on interview with President 'Ali Khamene'i by unidentified *Tehran Times* correspondent in Tehran on 18 October]

[Text] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran and chief of the Supreme Defense Council [SDC], was interviewed by the correspondent of the English-language daily *Tehran Times* yesterday. Asked if the Islamic Republic of Iran would find acceptable the establishment of a panel on the basis of Resolution No 598 empowered to identify the aggressor and if Iran would halt the war at this stage as a result, Mr Khamene'i said: Concerning the implementation of Resolution No 598, we mentioned certain points to the UN secretary general. One of these is that as far as the time factor is concerned, we do not attach more priority to a cease-fire as compared with the identification of the aggressor. We believe that the proclamation of the aggressor should be simultaneous with establishing a tribunal or a competent committee mandated to assess the aggressor's punishment along with a cease-fire. This means that we do not believe that the time factor for the implementation of a cease-fire should have priority.

The correspondent asked: Would the establishment of a tribunal or a panel to identify the aggressor be accepted simultaneously with a cease-fire? The president answered: The setting up of a panel empowered to name the aggressor will naturally precede the naming of the aggressor. Therefore, the aggressor must be named to effect a cease-fire. The correspondent asked: Who is to name the aggressor? The president responded: Whoever wishes to do so. On principle, and in our opinion, this should be done by the Security Council. The correspondent asked: Will you accept a peacekeeping team at that stage? The SDC chief said: There is no such peacekeeping team. The *Tehran Times* correspondent asked: What if a force were to come and take up position? The president said: No, we did not discuss any such topic; this was not part of the discussions. The correspondent inquired: Has the Security Council made any new recommendation? The president said: Nothing has been conveyed to us officially thus far. On the basis of what we have deduced from news reports, we announced at the Friday prayers that we will insist on our previous stance.

The *Tehran Times* correspondent then asked: In view of the encounters between Iran and the United States over the past 2 to 3 weeks, and the fact that the tension between the two countries is at its zenith, many political experts have conflicting views on the future behavior of the two countries toward each other. In view of your assessment of U.S. foreign policy in the past few years, what is your opinion of the possibility of a U.S.-Iranian military confrontation? The president said: The present U.S. Administration is in a difficult dilemma. On the one hand, it is forced to make a show of force, in order to gain the U.S. public's attention. This has been done in conditions in which this powerful face has been battered repeatedly over the course of 1 and 1/2 years. The U.S. Administration urgently needs to regain its lost prestige. On the other hand, any act of violence in the Persian Gulf will severely harm U.S. long-term interests in the region. Its current interests also will not remain unaffected. The present U.S. leadership echelons are acutely aware of this. As you have heard on the news, various elements have repeatedly warned Reagan and his clique against any act of violence in the Persian Gulf. Even the basis of the policy for supporting Kuwaiti ships has been questioned. However, our assessment is that the U.S. Government is facing very difficult circumstances at present. One cannot make a conjecture, however, whether it has the necessary means at its disposal for deciding on carrying out a violent act.

The *Tehran Times* correspondent asked: In the analysis of the Western media, it is being said that the animosity of the United States and its allies toward the Islamic Republic of Iran has resulted in a greater closeness between Iran and the Soviet Union. The trips by Iranian and Soviet officials have been mentioned in these analyses as proof of this allegation. Do you accept this viewpoint? The president answered: Normally the Western media's allegations and political analyses with regard to us are biased. This should be accepted. However, with respect to our ties with the Soviet Union, there is no doubt that we have not closed the path for us to engage in political "maneuvers." The Soviet Union is a big neighbor. We have never severed relations with the Soviet Union, as we have with the United States. Even now, our ties with the Soviet Union are expanding. There is no doubt about it. This policy stems from the fact that we consider such an expansion to be in our country's interests.

The correspondent asked: Is there any possibility of a friendship accord between the two countries? The president responded: There already is friendly cooperation between the two countries in practice, and it is possible that this may increase. In response to the *Tehran Times* correspondent's question about the timing of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Moscow, Mr Khamene'i said: The time has not yet been arranged. The Soviet officials requested the visit and we also viewed the issue positively. The correspondent said: Kuwait is considered the most vulnerable of the countries in the northern sector of the Persian Gulf. Despite this vulnerability, it has maintained an unjustified animosity against the Islamic Republic of Iran during the course of the war. In light of the events of the past few days, has there been any report from a third country indicating a change in the Kuwaiti stance? The president answered: We never wanted to have hostile relations with Kuwait. As you know, the distance between our troops' positions and Kuwaiti territory is barely a few kilometers; all that separates us is the Khawr 'Abdallah. Kuwait is a country with which we have had longstanding friendly ties, and we have always desired that this friendship should continue. We would prefer that the Kuwaitis liberate themselves from the troubles and problems they have created for themselves. We have reiterated to the Kuwaitis: Remove yourselves from the arena. This is very simple. All they have to do is announce officially—in such a way that we can be sure they are sincere—that they will not assist Iraq. This would be enough to make the relationship between us and Kuwait what it was before—one of friendship. We do not want anything more than this from Kuwait.

At this point the correspondent asked: Have any third countries mediated in this regard? The president replied Our relations with Kuwait have not reached a point where mediation is required. This is what we have told the Kuwaitis. Also, whatever is necessary they hear directly from us.

The *Tehran Times* correspondent asked: Given that relations between the West and the Islamic Republic of Iran have become increasingly strained in the past year, culminating in the severance of ties and the deterioration of relations between Iran and most of the Western countries, does Iran have any specific policy for its relations with Western countries? Mr Khamene'i stated: One thing I wish to emphasize to you is this: When the United States realized that its interests were threatened by the Islamic Republic of Iran, it resorted to violence. In contrast to its experience elsewhere, it encountered the resistance and steadfastness of Iran. Therefore, it incorporated into its agenda the policy which you witness today in the Persian Gulf, that is, the involvement of the whole West alongside it in the arena. The United States had various reasons for doing this which are quite evident and can easily be understood. It is not necessary to recount them here. Unfortunately, most of the Western countries, including the majority of European countries, fell straight into the trap. They did not realize that this was not to their benefit, indeed that it is to their detriment and to the advantage of the United States. The reality is that we have no reason to antagonize the West. For us, the countries of the East and West, and countries with differing political inclinations, are the same. We are only hostile toward those governments that have a past record of hostility toward us or have been motivated by oppression. Otherwise, if a Western country wishes to have equal and sincere relations with us, we do not have any prejudice or negative sentiments against it. On the basis of our principles and beliefs, we consider it essential that if any country has a hostile attitude toward us,

we retaliate accordingly. Such a situation did arise with some Western countries, but we do not have any such problem with the others.

In answer to a question on the "Neither East nor West" slogan, the president declared: "Neither East nor West" does not mean not having friendly ties with the East or West. It can be interpreted as not accepting domination from the East or West. The correspondent asked: If the United States were to halt its enmity and return Iranian assets, would these constitute conditions in which ties could be established? The president replied: Certainly there are conditions where our ties with the United States could be normalized. Of course, they include those conditions you have already mentioned, and perhaps there would be others.

Asked whether the deepening of political and economic ties between Iran and the Soviet Union would have any effect on our policy toward the Afghan mujahidin, President Khamene'i said: You know we do not forsake our principles, regardless of the situation. We have certain principles on the Afghanistan issue. They will not be disregarded. Moreover, it is possible that they may be accepted or understood by many in the world, even by the Soviet Union itself. We are not playing a political game in Afghanistan. We are adhering to a principle and we will continue to abide by it.

The correspondent asked: It has been reported recently that Great Britain and France have sent messages expressing their desire to improve ties with Iran. Has there been any agreement regarding reciprocal ties with these two countries? The president stated: As you know, those countries' ties with Iran were weakened as a result of their actions. Whenever they are ready to compensate for their past errors, we will continue to uphold our consistent position.

The correspondent referred to the culmination of political talks on an international level regarding the imposed war and in this connection asked whether the observable lull on the fronts, the absence of major operations, is due to the political talks. The president responded: No, there is no connection between these two issues. Military operations on the fronts depend on miscellaneous factors and special causes. Of course, before embarking on any operations, we take a series of political factors into consideration. For example, after every attack or every move we allow a certain period to lapse.

The correspondent queried: In light of the esteemed imam's statement on the incompetence of the Hijaz rulers in their administration of the two holy mosques, what practical solution does the Islamic Republic of Iran envisage in the administration of these holy sites by the world Muslims? The president replied: We have plans but this is not an issue on which the Islamic Republic of Iran can make decisions by itself. All Islamic nations must participate in these decisions. Of course, it is natural that most Islamic countries have pinned their hopes on the Islamic Republic of Iran in this regard.

Speaking on the Arab summit scheduled to be held in the Jordanian capital, the president said: One of the items on its agenda is the issue of the war. Naturally, friends of Saddam and servants of the United States have on previous occasions intended to discuss the issue exclusively. On all these occasions they did not succeed. There are some in the Arab world who tackle problems realistically and prefer to act in a proper and logical manner. Hence, this servile and insignificant group could not attain its goal of placing the issue of the war as the sole item on the agenda. It was forced to agree to incorporate other issues as well.

Regarding the fact that for the first time an Arab summit has relegated the Arab-Israel war to second place, the president said: Yes, of course. It is obvious that when the venue is Amman and it is to be presided over by King Husayn, you should not expect anything else.

Returned Prisoners Report U.S. 'Tortures'

LD191844 Tehran IRNA in English 1741 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 19, IRNA—Three of the Iranian combatants wounded in the October 8 U.S. helicopter attack on Iranian patrol boats in the Persian Gulf disclosed here Monday that they were savagely tortured by American Marines during their captivity.

Addressing foreign and local reporters, Heshmatollah Rasuli revealed that American interrogators fired a bullet at his left upper arm, slashed his wound with a knife and then drove a 10 centimeter nail into his waist in a vain bid to elicit information from him.

The wounded combatants are personnel of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) naval force who were on a routine patrol mission in the Persian Gulf off the Farsi Island, when their speed boats were suddenly attacked by U.S. helicopters.

Another wounded, Karimi said that his interrogator who spoke Persian tried to lure him with offers of political asylum. He said that after his boat was attacked by the U.S. helicopters another Iranian boat which was present on the scene shot down a U.S. helicopter with a Stinger missile.

Karimi scoffed at a U.S. claim denying the downing of its chopper during the clash, saying that he and his fellow combatants had clearly seen the helicopter burning and crashing into the sea.

Disclosed the combatant, the Americans forced him to lie down, kicking him in the head with their boots and beating him up time and again.

Ali Baqeri, another wounded combatant said the U.S. interrogators had continuously abused their Islamic sentiments and threatened them with death during the interrogation. Asked by a Japanese reporter on the use of Stinger missiles by Iranian combatants Baqeri answered that this missile is used by all Iranian vessels in encounters with the enemies.

Meanwhile, an official of the IRGC naval force told reporters that three vessels with 12 crew members aboard were damaged in the U.S. helicopter attack on October 8. He said the U.S. naval forces took hostage six Iranians four of whom were wounded and two martyred who were later handed over to Iran, noting that six others are still missing.

Participation in Guards Corps Funeral Urged

LD191333 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 19 Oct 87

(Text) The War Information Headquarters has issued a statement inviting the marty-nurturing people to widely participate in the funeral of the two brave men of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps who achieved the lofty status of martyrdom in confrontation with the U.S. forces, and thus to honor the lofty status of martyr. The funeral procession is due to begin at 1500 today, leaving from the U.S. den of espionage.

Guards Corps Spokesman Speech

LD191815 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] The funeral for the pure bodies of two heroic fighters of Islam who were martyred at the hands of aggressive U.S. forces in a dastardly attack in the Persian Gulf took place this afternoon with the participation of members of the three forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran in front of the den of espionage [the former U.S. Embassy].

According to a report by a Central News Unit correspondent, Mr Afshar, the IRGC spokesman, said: The blow to the United States in the Persian Gulf delivered by the forces of Islam will be much more severe than the blow delivered in Lebanon. He referred to the U.S. attack on Iranian boats in the Persian Gulf and said: After attacking Iranian boats on patrol duty, the United States opened fire for 1 hour out of fear. After arresting the fighters of Islam, they tied their hands and tortured them on a U.S. warship up to the moment of their martyrdom.

Continuing his speech, he announced: At the moment, the fighters of Islam have all kinds of equipment and different types of surface-to-air and surface-to-sea missiles, as well as Stinger missiles. We will resist to the last man and to the last drop of our blood. We are certain that the continuation of the war and our uncompromising battle will put the United States in its place.

At the end, he asked all the fighting forces to go to the fronts and to not give the aggressive regime of Saddam an opportunity to reorganize its forces.

Supreme Judicial Council Endorses Executions

LD191725 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] The Supreme Judicial Council held a session today chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Musavi-Kho'iniha, the state prosecutor general. During today's session the files of six bandits, those corrupt of the earth individuals who had waged war against God, were reviewed in the council. These individuals had been tried in the Islamic Revolution tribunals of the Azarbayjan Bakhtari and Kordestan Provinces and had been condemned to death, and the Supreme Islamic Revolution Court had also endorsed the sentences against them. The council approved these verdicts and issued orders for their execution.

Some of these individuals had received military training in Iraq and had been sent to Iran to carry out acts of destruction and terrorism. They had been organized by various groupings and have participated in several clashes against the forces of Islam, security officials and civilian people, and as a result they have martyred or wounded some people and have disabled others.

Larijani's Rome Visit Not Linked to Hostages

LD170334 Tehran IRNA in English 1943 GMT
16 Oct 87

[Text] Rome, Oct. 16, IRNA—Italian Foreign Ministry spokesman Giuseppe Panocchia has denied press reports that the scheduled visit to Rome of Iran's Foreign Ministry official Mohammad Javad Larijani is in connection with three Italian nationals held hostage by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan in Iraq.

In an interview with IRNA here, he said Larijani on the way to his European visits is to stop over in Rome in order to talk with the Italian foreign minister and current chairman of the UN Security Council Giulio Andreotti in relation with the Iraq-Iran war and mediation efforts of the UN chief.

Highly circulated Italian dailies suggested on Thursday that Larijani in his visit to Rome is to discuss the case of three Italian engineers being held by Iraq's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

Panocchia made it clear that the agenda of talks between Larijani and Andreotti is to help facilitate efforts of the United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. "The issue of the Italian hostages may be raised only if the Iranian official wishes to," he said.

Three Italian engineers were taken hostage by members of the PUK in September in protest against Italy's support for the Baghdad government, and its presence in the Persian Gulf. The three Italian nationals have since been held by the PUK.

The militant opposition PUK which is waging a guerrilla fight with the Iraqi regime has said that Iraqi Government forces have frequently deployed Italian-made chemical weapons against the Kurds.

The PUK demands an immediate end to Italy's arms sales to Iraq and its pull-out from the Persian Gulf in demonstration of its neutrality in the Iraq-Iran war, a condition it has offered for releasing the three hostages.

'Tribal Guards' To Secure Sensitive Areas

LD171305 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] The intelligence and operations deputy of the Islamic Revolution Committee gave an interview in which he said: To preserve security among our country's tribes, the Islamic Revolution Committee will be setting up two types of stations, mobile and stationary. Recruits will come from the country's tribes. He noted that since the Islamic revolution, completely new services and programs have been developed for the tribes and said: To protect the property and pasture land and to prevent some undesirable elements and groups from abusing them, the Islamic Revolution Committee proposed a security project to the Interior Ministry whereby the Islamic Revolution Committee, in addition to being responsible for the country's security, would also be responsible for preserving security among the tribes.

The intelligence and operations deputy of the Islamic Revolution Committee, added: We have tribes in 21 provinces. Considering that they are scattered, the Islamic Revolution Committee, in an effort to preserve security of the tribes, plans to establish two types of stations: mobile and stationary. By the end of this year, 40 mobile and stationary stations will be set up around the country and in sensitive areas.

In conclusion, the intelligence and operations deputy noted that the tribes are very effective, economically and culturally, in maintaining the independence of the country. He said: The Islamic Revolution Committee will work to preserve those customs and traditions that conform to the revolution and Islam and that will attract the best tribal forces from among the country's tribes themselves. In this way, tribal guards will be created.

Tribesmen Conduct Maneuvers Near Dezful

LD190933 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0230 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, in order to fully prepare the popular forces to confront the plots of global arrogance and the creation of crises in the Persian Gulf by the United States, a tribal maneuver entitled "Defenders of the Persian Gulf" was held with the participation of a large number of tribesmen from the Sardasht District near the Dezful Governorate.

The tribal maneuver was organized by the Dezful Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. The participating forces identified positions of the imaginary enemy forces with precision and, using combat experience and military techniques as well as light and semi-heavy weapons, launched operations along three axes on three important heights under the control of the imaginary enemy. The brave tribal forces of the Sardasht District succeeded in capturing the heights after 1 hour.

Guards Corps Maneuvers in Mazandaran Noted

LD190854 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0230 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] The 13th Al-Sa'eqeh Division of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps of Gorgan coordinated with combat-engineering units of the region's Reconstruction Jihad, as well as the 30th Infantry Division from Gorgan, held maneuvers codenamed "Flaming Stalks," which was attended by a number of Mazandaran provincial officials, local dignitaries, and thousands of people of Gorgan.

According to a Central News Unit correspondent in Gorgan, during the maneuvers the forces of monotheism attacked imaginary enemy forces in three stages: directing fire on enemy positions with the support of tank units, crossing obstacles, and finally, capturing all enemy positions.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Navy Searches 9 Ships in Strait

LD182110 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] The Armed Forces Joint Staff Command of the Islamic of Iran has announced: The brave combatants of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran continue to carry out their special sea defense missions. While monitoring shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, they identified and inspected the cargo of nine foreign merchant ships and oil tankers. After ascertaining their cargo and destination, they were allowed to continue their voyage.

The victorious fighters of Iran's Ground Forces yesterday defended and consolidated their positions. While dispatching various patrol, reconnaissance, ambush, and combat groups to different regions, they opened artillery, mortar, and other weapons fire on positions of the Saddamists. They killed 8 duped enemy troops and destroyed 10 observation posts and light and heavy weapon bunkers in one of the southern sectors, set ablaze part of the enemy defensive positions and four vehicles, and killed or wounded a number of Iraqi troops.

Thanks to the fire of the mighty fighters of Islam's army, an enemy patrol group which tried to infiltrate positions of our forces in the Sayyid Sadiq region, was forced to flee, engineering combat activities of the enemy forces in the Qasr-e Shirin and Eynkhosh regions were halted, and the movement of Iraqi vehicles along the Jassan-Badrah axis and north of (Hawr al-'Azim) were stopped. The Iraqi aggressive forces suffered heavy losses and casualties.

Our Gendarmerie fighters continued their operations yesterday in those regions under their protection. They bombarded positions and installations of the Saddamists, destroyed some 15 weapon bunkers and 3 light and heavy vehicles of the enemy, and killed or wounded at least 8 troops of the Iraqi regime.

Communique No 2,994

LD191742 Tehran IRNA in English 1722 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 19, IRNA—At least 20 Iraqi soldiers were killed and wounded, while dozens of gun emplacements, two munitions depots, and two vehicles of theirs destroyed Sunday in southern fronts by Iran's gendarmerie forces, said a military Communique released here Monday.

Communique Number 2994 of the Joint Staff Command of the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces said that a foreign tanker was intercepted and searched in the Strait of Hormuz yesterday, but was allowed to proceed since no suspicious cargo turned aboard.

In north-western fronts, Iranian patrol groups were dispatched to the operational region, and in Panjwin Muslim combatants disrupted Iraqi forces' Engineering activities, inflicting casualties and losses on them. Iraqi artillery fire was also silenced in the fronts.

Iranian patrol units penetrated enemy positions in the western fronts while, in Mehran and Qasr-e Shirin the Muslim combatants checked engineering activities of enemy troops.

Iraqi vehicle movements were subjected to Iranian combatants' artillery fire in Mandali, Zurbatiyah and the region opposite Maymak in the western sector.

In southern fronts, the Iranian forces consolidated their positions and subjected Iraqi fortifications to their heavy artillery and tank fire, especially in Zubayr and Chazabeh region, an Iraqi armoured unit attempting to penetrate Iranian forces' positions was forced to retreat by the heavy artillery fire of the combatants.

Enemy forces sustained considerable damage in east of Basra, western Jofeyr, Hoseyniyeh and Talaiyeh, where enemy engineering activities were brought to a halt, concluded the communique.

Pakistan

President Restates Policy on Nuclear Energy

BK200133 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Excerpt] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq says that Pakistan will not be pressured, threatened, or tempted to give up its program of the peaceful use of atomic energy, and opposes the use of this energy for destructive purposes. He made these remarks during a speech at the inauguration of a compressor station at the Sui gas field today, which was built at a cost of more than 2 billion rupees.

He noted that Pakistan has several times proposed that the United Nations declare South Asia a nuclear free zone. We are also prepared to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, provided India also does so.

The president reiterated that Pakistan will use atomic energy for the benefit and welfare of humanity. He said: We have to concentrate on conventional sources of energy, especially oil and gas, until an alternative source of energy has been discovered. [passage omitted on government's plan for developing energy resources]

Affirms Need for Energy Program

BK200248 Hong Kong AFP in English 0210 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, Oct 19 (AFP)—President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said Monday Pakistan would not renounce the peaceful use of nuclear energy under any kind of pressure, intimidation or temptation.

Inaugurating a gas compressor station at the Sui gas field 60 kilometres (37 miles) north of here, he said: "We urgently require nuclear energy so that our factories and machines may keep on operating."

"Our fields abound in green crops, our people may be healthy and energetic and our towns and villages are lit up with electricity," he said. "In other words, we shall utilise nuclear energy wholely and only for the benefit and welfare of mankind."

"We do not know why our friends are afflicted by far-fetched mistrust and apprehensions from our efforts and successes in this field," he said.

"The truth of the matter is that Pakistan has been declaring...that we are, both in theory and practice, opposed to the destructive use of nuclear energy."

Referring to recent U.S. criticism of Pakistan's nuclear programme, the president recalled his government's proposals made at the United Nations that South Asia be declared a nuclear free zone. "This is our standing proposal, which we have repeatedly reiterated," he said.

"We earnestly desire to conclude a treaty with India for the mutual inspection of each other's nuclear installations. We are even willing to sign the nuclear nonproliferation treaty if India also does so."

PRC Shipbuilding Delegation Meets Minister

BK200841 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] A 2-member Chinese shipbuilding delegation led by Madam (Peng Liong) of the Chinese state corporation for shipbuilding called on Minister of State for Defense Rana Naim Mahmud in Islamabad. They held detailed talks on various aspects of future cooperation between the two countries in the shipbuilding industry.

The minister of state appreciated the continuously growing relations and cooperation between the two countries and expressed the hope that the delegation's visit will help in identifying areas of bilateral cooperation in shipbuilding.

Frontier Corps Seizes Arms in Baluchistan

BK161622 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] In a raid near Derdi (?forest) in the Chahgi District of Baluchistan, the Frontier Corps recovered a large amount of weapons and ammunition. Four persons have been arrested and a pickup truck loaded with weapons has been seized. Further investigations are underway.

Sri Lanka

Indian Forces Conduct Operations Near Jaffna

Attack City Center

BK191444 Hong Kong AFP in English 1428 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 19 (AFP)—Indian soldiers, backed by armoured vehicles, Monday entered the heart of Jaffna town in northern Sri Lanka, an Indian Government spokesman said.

He said fierce fighting raged in the town's Navatkuli and Kopai North sectors after soldiers captured Jaffna's main bus depot and communication installations while engaging Tamil rebels in close-quarter combat.

"The western pincer of the Indian Peacekeeping Force has advanced further and secured a microwave station and Jaffna's municipal town hall. (It) has begun a mopping-up operation," the spokesman said.

The External Affairs Ministry spokesman had said earlier that a column of Indian commandos had broken out of Jaffna Fort and had succeeded in linking up with the western pincer.

Indian troops also captured and destroyed a clandestine explosives factory run by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the Kopai North area, the spokesman said. "Indian soldiers have also secured the Jaffna's main telegraph office which was heavily booby-trapped and mined by the LTTE," he added.

He refused to give LTTE casualty figures. But Defence Ministry sources said 46 LTTE guerrillas had died battling Indian forces for the control of Jaffna since Sunday.

"Heavy fighting continues in the Navatkuli area," the spokesman said.

Capture LTTE Headquarters

BK191148 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Indian troops have captured the headquarters of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam at Kopai North, just outside Jaffna. All India Radio reported that a large quantity of arms and ammunition had been seized at the headquarters.

According to *Reuter* in Colombo, the Indian High Commission confirmed the capture and said the Tigers' base was one of several in the Jaffna Peninsula. The high commission spokeswoman said the base had been established as part of a move by terrorists to shift their headquarters. She said LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran was reported to have been at the base in the past few days, but he was not captured in the assault.

The Indian Peacekeeping Forces [IPKF] today encircled Jaffna and moved further inside the town from the eastern Navatkuli sector. The IPKF consolidated its position on all other flanks reaching the perimeters of the town, according to the spokeswoman. She said the main scene of action was the Navatkuli sector in the south where the IPKF has tightened its stronghold. Many explosive dumps of the LTTE had been blown up, she said, adding that during the past few days, between 1,500 and 2,000 additional Indian troops have been flown into the peninsula, increasing the strength of the force in Jaffna alone to 8,000.

Consolidate Positions

BK200340 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] The peacekeeping force has further advanced toward Jaffna Fort from the east and consolidated their position. In Urumpirai area, in spite of stiff opposition from the LTTE, the peacekeeping force successfully destroyed heavily fortified bunkers with underground rooms. On all other fronts, the peacekeeping force has made further dents.

An Indian vessel, *Island Glory*, is scheduled to leave Madras to Northern Province of Sri Lanka carrying 630 tons of relief materials in a day or 2. According to an official spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry, a team of Red Cross officials will also go on the ship. The relief cargo includes rice, sugar, edible oil, medicine, and other essential items.

The death toll in yesterday's land mine incident at Kalkudah in Batticaloa District is now put at 21. The first report reaching Colombo had put the death toll at 40. Our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, reports that the chartered bus coming from Jaffna had about 55 passengers, all of them Tamils. Security cordon and search operations were conducted in the area where the land mine blasted.

Group Says 700 Civilians Killed in Jaffna

BK201110 Hong Kong AFP in English 1054 GMT 20 Oct 87

[By M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[Text] Madras, India, Oct 20 (AFP)—India's military offensive against Tamil guerrillas in the northern Sri Lankan city of Jaffna has left at least 700 civilians dead, an independent group said Tuesday.

The 12 Sri Lankans, including officials and academics, said the offensive launched October 8 to disarm the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam had also provoked "near starvation" in Jaffna.

"About 700 civilians have been killed and more than 300 wounded," the group said in a statement. It added that Indian troops were using aircraft to bomb colleges and Hindu temples in Jaffna.

Indian officials have refused to detail civilian casualties, and have denied using air cover in the offensive, designed to snuff out LTTE opposition to a July 29 Indo-Sri Lankan plan to restore peace to the island nation.

Among the names on the statement were Jaffna's Assistant Government Agent M. Manivasakar, Jaffna Municipal Commissioner C.V.K. Sivayanam, Jaffna hospital director P.S. Nacchinakkiniyar and medical registrar M.S. Arasaratnam.

Government officials in Madras could not be reached for comment.

The statement, released by the local opposition Dravida Kazhagam Party in Madras, said Jaffna had been without electricity since October 11.

"Even drinking water is running scarce.... A severe food shortage has arisen and starvation deaths are imminent," it added.

It said the encirclement of Jaffna by Indian troops had also caused fuel to run short, and that local hospitals were running short of medicine.

Other Tamil sources in Madras, including those known to be opposed to the LTTE, said civilians were dying in large numbers. They feared many of the more than 500 guerrillas reported killed in combat could be civilians.

"The civilian casualties are mounting, but it was inevitable," said L. Keethishwaran of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF).

In a separate statement, two members of Jaffna's Roman Catholic clergy urged Colombo and New Delhi to stop "random shelling," assure a free flow of essential supplies and make all possible efforts for a ceasefire.

Jaffna District Dean Father Illavi Jebanesan and Jaffna Diocese administrator S.A. Micheal Samy said shelling by Indian troops last week had been the worst Jaffna had ever seen.

"The indiscriminate shelling of the entire area has caused the death of more than 100 civilians in their homes and rendered an unprecedented number injured," they said.

"Though civilians were instructed to seek shelter in three specified places, these very same places have been the target of shelling and strafing from helicopters killing and injuring some of them."

The statement said even patients being transported in boats were being killed by strafing. Part of Jaffna teaching hospital had also been shelled, it said.

40 Tamil 'Terrorists' Captured in Batticaloa

BK200659 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0631 GMT 20 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 20 (*Lanka Puwath*)—Forty LTTE terrorists were captured in Batticaloa last night and in the early hours of this morning, official sources told *Lanka Puwath*.

They said that the 40 terrorists were among about 90 LTTE cadres who have been detailed for strikes in the Eastern Province districts.

The sources said that the terrorists had planned a series of large landmine explosions directed at the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] and police.

Official sources said that investigations had revealed that the land mine which blew up the bus at Kalkudah-Kiran Road near the Kalkudah railway station, killing 41 Tamil refugees men, women and children was meant to blow up an IPKF vehicle carrying troops behind it.

Round the clock cordon and search operations are on in Batticaloa, the sources said.

Meanwhile IPKF troops last night captured the Jaffna Town Hall as it moved closer to the Jaffna city centre official sources told *Lanka Puwath*.

They said that the IPKF troops moving from Annacottai had linked with IPKF troops moving towards Annacottai and was securing the area.

The IPKF force troops from Navatkuli west of Jaffna penetrated deep into the Jaffna City center and captured the town hall last night.

Earlier a microwave telegraphic centre and certain other public buildings were captured. According to the official sources the IPKF was meeting with resistance from the LTTE terrorists on their forward trust into Jaffna from Manipay and certain sectors of Kopai where Indian troops captured the LTTE headquarters in Kopai North and blew up a terrorist ammunition dump.

JVP Plan To Assassinate Officials Discovered

BK201009 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0936 GMT 20 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 20 (*Lanka Puwath*)—An ex-Buddhist monk who had given up his robes two months ago has been arrested by the Welikada police in connection with the detection of a cache of explosives arms and ammunition at the Sri Parakumba Pirivena at Etul Kotte, a suburb of Colombo, senior police official told *Lanka Puwath*.

He said that certain incriminating documents which were found to be under a bed of a layman is alleged to have been written by the ex-monk who had earlier been arrested by the police in connection with the July anti-peace accord incidents.

Official sources said the layman who had been taken into police custody in connection with the detection of two kilos of gelignite, two shot guns and 11 cartridges had been released after being questioned by the police.

The incriminating documents had been found not under his bed but under the bed of another layman living in another room.

The senior police official said that a planned conspiracy of the proscribed Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) to murder a number of citizens holding responsible positions in the government have been unearthed following the detection of the documents.

Further investigations are proceeding.